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BI-WEEKLY EDITION---PUBLISHED EVERY THURSDAY AND SUNDAY.

VOL XXXVI.

CALCUTTA THURSDAY, JANUARY 28 1904.

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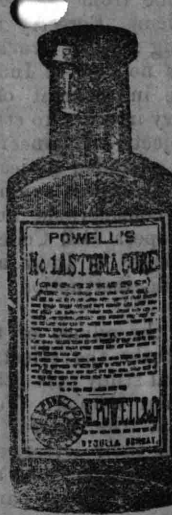
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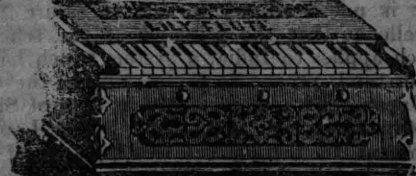
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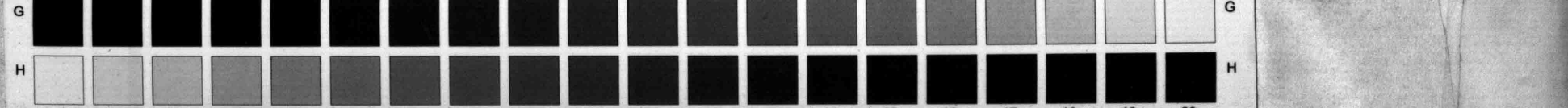
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TECHNICAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR INDIA.

INTERESTING CORRESPONDENCE.

The following resolution dated 20th January is issued by the Government of India, in the Home Department:—

The following correspondence regarding the institution of State technical scholarships to enable natives of India to pursue a course of study in Great Britain or other Western countries is published for general information:—

INDIAN GOVERNMENT'S LETTER.

No. 8, dated Simla, the 9th October 1902.
From—The Government of India, Home Department.

To—The Right Hon'ble Lord George Francis Hamilton, His Majesty's Secretary of State for India.

We have the honour to advert to Your Lordship's Despatch No. 105-Public (Educational), dated the 2nd August 1901, with which you forwarded a question asked in the House of Commons by Sir M. M. Bhowmallee and the answer given thereto on the subject of founding additional Government scholarships for natives of India who might desire to pursue technical studies in Great Britain or other countries of Europe.

Your Lordship at the same time expressed a wish to be informed of the result of our deliberations in the matter.

2. The question of the institution of State technical scholarships formed one of the subjects which came for discussion before the Educational Conference held at Simla in September 1901, and the following resolution was then passed:—

"That it is desirable that the Government of India should institute a number of State technical scholarships, perhaps ten in number with an approximate allowance of £100 a year, in addition to travelling expenses and fees, to be awarded annually in fixed proportions by the Local Governments subject to the sanction of the Government of India, to selected candidates, who should be sent abroad to undertake definite courses of study in subjects connected with industrial science or research. That these scholarships might be held for an average duration of two years."

3. In our letter addressed to Local Governments and Administrations on the 20th November 1901, relating to the subject of practical and technical education, we informed them that the Government of India accepted the recommendation of the Conference as to the institution of ten State technical scholarships, and that they proposed to give two of them to the Bombay Presidency, and two to the Madras Presidency, and two to Bengal, and to distribute the remaining four among the other provinces, where technical instruction had not yet advanced so far as in the three provinces mentioned. It was suggested that the selection of the students to hold these scholarships should be made by the Local Governments subject to the approval of the Government of India; that the Universities should have no power of nominating to them; and that no candidate should be considered qualified unless he had displayed in his educational career an aptitude for technical study. Subject to these conditions, it was considered that a wide discretion should be left to the Local Governments in selecting candidates for the award of these scholarships. We stated our opinion that in ordinary circumstances the period for which the scholarships might be held should be two years; but that in special cases it might be increased to a third year or even reduced below two years; and that the scholarships should be tenable in foreign countries as well as in Great Britain. The Local Governments and Administrations were asked to submit their views as to the details for working out the scheme.

4. The replies of the Local Governments and Administrations to our communication have received careful consideration at our hands, and we have now the honour to enclose a copy of them for Your Lordship's information. It will be seen that the outlines of the scheme sketched out by us have been generally accepted, but that there is a divergence of views in connection with the details. The scholarships are to be given for the purpose of providing for natives of India the higher technical education which may qualify them to assist in promoting the improvement of existing native industries and the development of new industries, wherever this may be possible. Technical education for this purpose may be defined as (a) the study of the scientific methods and principles underlying the practice of any handicraft, industry or profession, (b) the application of these methods and principles to the practice of the handicraft, industry or profession in question. Law, Medicine, Forestry and Veterinary science being already provided for are not included among the subjects to be studied by the holders of these technical scholarships and Agriculture does not fall within the scope of the present scheme. The scholarships will be awarded by the Government of India upon the recommendation of the Local Government, and will for the present, as already stated, be distributed as follows:—Two annually to the Madras Presidency; two to the Bombay Presidency; two to the Bengal, and the remaining four among other Local Governments and Administrations.

5. We do not propose to prescribe the particular industries for the encouragement of which particular provinces should give scholarships. The Local Government or Administration which is asked to recommend a candidate, will consider what industries are of importance in the province, and which of them may best be encouraged by scholarships, taking care to connect the scholarship scheme with the system of technical and industrial education in the province. In determining the choice of an industry Local Governments should in our opinion obtain assistance from the mercantile and industrial public, and take all measures that appeal to them to be possible and expedient for interesting the influential sections of that public in the scheme. Industries in which native capital and enterprise are engaged or likely to be engaged, will be particularly appropriate for selection. It should be borne in mind that men who have received an expensive European training can be employed only upon such industries as are susceptible of being organized upon a considerable scale.

6. In each case in which a Local Government recommends a scholarship, it will be necessary for it to support its selection by giving the Government of India some account of the state of the particular industry which it is intended to promote and some comparison with other industries which might be considered eligible for encouragement. In determining the industry to be studied and choosing the man recommended for the scholarship, the Local Governments and Administrations will be required to hear in mind the importance of ensuring that the returned scholar shall find scope for his skill and ability. It has been proposed on the one hand that such scholars before they are appointed should be placed under engagement to serve Government on their return. On the other hand, it has been suggested that private firms should be asked to guarantee their employment, and that the scholars should be reciprocally bound by engagement to such firms. We consider that the holder of one of these scholarships should not be bound by any such engagements, but that the prospect of his chances of employment after the completion of his studies should be well weighed when he is selected and that upon his return the choice of his career should be in the first instance determined by his own inclination. If the early results of the scheme are successful, we think that the services of the returned scholars are sure to be in good demand, and that, failing private employment, Government will be glad to turn their abilities to account as teachers in industrial schools or in other capacities connected with the improvement of local industries.

7. It is our intention to make it a condition of the grant of these scholarships that no candidate is to be selected for recommendation to one of them on the result of competitive examination either open or limited. It is desirable that, in selecting the industry to which they are to be directed, Local Governments should give the widest possible publicity, through such channels as they think fit, to their intention to nominate scholars, and that they should take such advice as they need from persons cognizant of the industry and from officers and others connected with technical education. In making the selection they should bear in mind the fact that it will be necessary for the student to have a competent knowledge of English, or of the language of any other country to which he is to be sent; and they should also be guided by considerations of his capacity, intelligence, practical interest in the industry, and the assurance which they feel, that he will continue to devote himself to it on his return to India. These are matters which cannot be decided by competition; and we intend that it should be made clear from the beginning that these scholarships are not to be regarded as prizes for which everyone has a right to claim an equal opportunity of competing. It is not necessary to lay down more precise rules as to the kind of general education which the scholar is to have received. Governments will act on their own discretion, having regard to the above considerations. As a general rule a scholar before being nominated should have received the best technical education available in the province in the particular industry which he has to study. The standard of this education differs in different industries, and each may be considered on its own merits. Even if the standard of technical education in a particular industry in a province is low, the scholar may be nominated if he has availed himself of the best facilities obtainable, and show an interest in the industry. No age limit will be laid down for scholars and none should be generally laid down by the Governments; but an age limit may at the discretion of a Local Government be fixed for any particular scholarship for which they invite applications. The particular industry to be studied will, as is stated above, be specified by the Local Governments in nominating a scholar, but they will hardly be in a position to define minutely the course of study to be pursued nor will they ordinarily be in possession of the most recent information as to the facilities for such studies existing in England and elsewhere. We are inclined to think therefore that the best plan will be to leave these matters to be settled by Your Lordship when the scholar arrives in England; and if this view is accepted we will arrange that timely information shall be submitted to you as to the probable date of each scholar's arrival and the subject which he is required to study. We propose that those scholars who study in England should be under Your Lordship's control and we trust that in the case of those who elect to pursue their studies on the Continent or in America Your Lordship may be able to make suitable arrangements for their supervision. The conditions under which they will hold their scholarships will be similar to those laid down for Government of India scholarships. Progress reports will be required upon them from time to time, and power will be retained to cancel a scholarship and to send the scholar back to India if his progress is not satisfactory.

8. Should the principles which we have advocated in connection with the institution of these technical scholarships meet with Your Lordship's acceptance, we trust the scheme for the establishment of ten scholarships of £100 a year may receive Your Lordship's early sanction.

LORD G. HAMILTON'S REPLY.
The following despatch was sent by Lord George Hamilton.
On receipt of the letter of Your Excellency in Council, No. 8 (Education), dated the 9th October last, in which you proposed the establishment of ten State technical scholarships, to be awarded annually to natives of India studying in Great Britain or other Western countries, I thought it desirable to obtain the opinion on the scheme of the Board of Education.

I enclose a copy of the letter addressed to the Board, and of their reply thereto.
It is not necessary for me to assure Your Excellency that the principle of the scheme, which applies to India, a system which has, I understand, proved very successful in the case of Japan, and more recently in that of Siam, meets with my full approval, and that I cordially concur in the development of Indian industries by providing promising young men with the means of studying the progress which has been made in industries and arts in the most advanced countries of the West. It appears to me, however, that before the details of the scheme can be finally settled there are some points which call for further examinations.
Your Excellency will observe that the Board of Education express of doubt, which I share, whether a scholarship of 1000. a year, in addition to fees and travelling expenses, will fully meet the expenses of a student in this country. I observe that in 1897, when

dealing with the existing Government scholarships of 2000. a year, the Government of India found it necessary to issue a public warning that "while the scholarship allowance of 2000. a year sufficient to cover the necessary expenses of college life at Oxford or Cambridge, it is very desirable, if not absolutely necessary, that the scholars should have some small private resources of their own to meet expenses in the vacation and other general expenses which are scarcely avoidable." And it appears to me that the holders of the proposed technical scholarships will be in the same case. I would therefore, ask you to consider whether it is not necessary to fix some higher limit to the scholarship allowance.

I observe from your fifth paragraph that it is proposed to connect the scholarship scheme with the system of technical and industrial education in the various Provinces, which will no doubt be established as the result of your deliberations on the report of the Industrial Schools Committee. I do not gather from the replies of the various Local Governments which you forward that there is any large supply of qualified candidates for the scholarships as yet forthcoming, at any rate in the two Provinces which are believed to be industrially most advanced, Bombay and Bengal, and I should suppose that it would take some time to bring into existence a class of students, trained in properly equipped technical schools in India, who would be ready to take up the scholarships when established. Before, therefore, sanctioning any definite annual number of scholarships to be awarded, I think it would suffice to announce the readiness of Government to give a scholarship or scholarships if promising and well-qualified candidates present themselves in some particular branch of industry. In other words, it appears to me that the scheme should for the present be worked experimentally, its further development being left for consideration when your technical institutions in India have begun to produce a class of students who might be expected to profit by its extension.

I notice that you exclude from the scope of the scheme Law, Medicine, Forestry and Veterinary Science, as being already provided for; and certainly there is no lack of Indian students who, without the inducement of a scholarship, visit this country in order to study the first two of these subjects. Engineering is not mentioned among the excluded subjects; you are, however, aware that Indian candidates present themselves in considerable numbers for entry to the Coopers Hill College, while the Engineering Colleges in India are, I presume, capable of giving instruction of high class in that subject.

I shall be ready, on the advice of the Board of Education, to undertake the selection of the course of technological study best fitted to the needs of any particular scholar. Your Excellency will observe that the Board, in the concluding paragraph of their letter, ask that they may, in any case in which their advice is desired, be furnished with full particulars as to the past educational experience and future requirements of each scholarship holder. Should any student elect to pursue his studies on the Continent or in America, it would probably be found possible to obtain from the head of the institution where he is studying a periodical report on his progress and conduct; but no more extended supervision by this Office would in such a case be practicable, and I should hope that the persons selected for the scholarships would ordinarily be of such formed character and habits, and of such an age, that detailed tutelage would in their case be unnecessary.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH THE EDUCATION BOARD.
Enclosure No. 1.
India Office to Board of Education.
J. and P. 1892-02.

India Office, 25th February, 1903.
Sir,—I am directed by Lord George Hamilton to enclose, for the information of the Board of Education, a copy of a Despatch which has been received from the Government of India, proposing the establishment of ten scholarships annually for natives of India who may desire to pursue technical studies in Great Britain or other European countries.

It will be seen that the Government of India, while contemplating that the particular industry to be studied by a scholarship holder shall be determined in India by the Local Government before he is nominated, propose to leave to this Office the prescription of a course of study, with reference to the facilities for such studies existing in England and elsewhere. They propose also that special arrangements should be made for the supervision of any students who may elect to pursue their studies on the Continent or in America. The value of the scholarships is fixed at £100 a year, in addition to the fees payable to the institutions where the scholars will study, and travelling expenses.

Lord George Hamilton would be much obliged if the Board of Education would favour him with their advice on the proposed scheme, and in particular in regard to those points in it which are enumerated in the preceding paragraph. There is not at present in this Department any official who could be made responsible for selecting a course of study for an Indian holding a technical scholarship, and his Lordship hopes that if the scheme is brought into operation he may count on the assistance of the Board of Education especially in this respect.

It is understood that the system of deputation students to Europe for technical study has been adopted with much success by the Government of Japan and more recently by that of Siam; and it is probable that the experience gained in these cases (if known to the Board of Education) would afford some criterion of the results which may be expected from the establishment of a similar scheme for natives of India.

Lord George Hamilton would be glad to learn whether, in the opinion of the Board, an allowance of £100 annually (in addition to fees and travelling expenses) is likely to suffice for the support of an Indian in this country while undergoing a course of study. I have, etc.,
HORACE WALPOLE.

The Secretary, Board of Education.
Enclosure No. 2.
Board of Education to India Office.
Whitehall, London, S. W., 21st April, 1903.

Sir,—In reply to Sir H. Walpole's letter of February 25th, I am directed by the Board of Education to state that they regard the proposed establishment of ten annual travelling scholarships for natives of India who shall pursue technological studies in Great Britain or some other Western country as likely to

be of benefit to Indian Industry and Education. The Board note that the Government of India in their Despatch of October 10th, contemplate cases in which the scholar will elect to pursue his studies in America, while in your letter of 25th February last, the sphere of study is limited to Great Britain or other European countries. If this discrepancy is due to inadvertence, the Board would take this opportunity of saying that in their opinion some of the scholars might derive special advantage from a course of residence in Europe.

If requested by the Secretary of State for India, the Board of Education, though unable to undertake responsibility for the personal supervision of the students, will be happy to give such advice as is within their competence, from time to time, as to the course of technological study best fitted to the needs of any particular scholar.

In reply to the question of the Secretary of State as to the sufficiency of the proposed annual allowance, the Board are of opinion that £100 annually (in addition to fees and travelling expenses) would not be adequate to the student's needs and they believe that this view is confirmed by the experience of those who have organised similar scholarship-systems for the Governments of Japan and Siam, but of course, much would depend on the social status of the scholars and on the country to which they were sent.

In this connection the Board of Education would be glad to receive more precise information as to the exact educational standing of the proposed scholarship holders. The Board are at present not clear whether it is contemplated that these scholars should pursue technical studies of the highest grade, or of an intermediate character, or whether they might even be of artisan rank but it is presumed that the reference is to the needs of the first two classes. In any case in which the Board might be called upon to advise with regard to any student they would desire to be furnished with a statement of his past educational experience and future requirements.

I have, etc.,
ROBERT L. MORANT.

The Under-Secretary of State for India.
No. 565-572, dated Simla, the 21st September 1903.

From—W. S. Marris, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India,
To—Local Governments and Administrations.

I am directed to forward, for your information a copy of the papers regarding the institution of State technical scholarships to enable natives of India to pursue a course of study in Great Britain or other Western countries.

2. In view of the doubts expressed by the Board of Education and the Secretary of State as to the sufficiency of the proposed amount of the scholarships, the Government of India think that it would be well to fix their value at £150 a year. As has been pointed out, however, the question depends largely upon the status of the scholar, and on the country to which he proceeds for study: and if in any particular case the Local Government regards the sum now named as insufficient the Governor-General in Council will be prepared to consider proposals for increasing it.

3. Instead of announcing the intention to award a definite number of scholarships annually, the Government of India agree with the Secretary of State that it will for the present suffice to intimate the readiness of Government to give a scholarship or scholarships if promising and well-qualified candidates present themselves in some particular branch of industry. They further accept His Lordship's suggestion that Engineering should be excluded from the scope of the proposals.

4. Subject to the foregoing modifications, the Despatch of 9th October 1902 to the Secretary of State indicates the conditions under which the Government of India desire to introduce experimentally a scheme of technical scholarships. The information now before them suggests that the textile industry in Bombay and the mining industry in Bengal will be found to offer the most favourable fields for the initiation of the experiment.

The Government of India will, however, be glad to consider any suggestions which you may have to offer for the establishment of a technical candidate scholarship in any other branch of industry which can thereby be developed, if a suitable can be found.

H. H. RISLEY.
Secretary to the Government of India.

A SOCIAL EVIL IN BURMA.

A writer on Burma some years ago remarked in effect of the morals of the Burmese as follows:—

"It would not be fair to judge them by our standard. Their legal marriage tie is easily dissolved. Openly together as man and wife and eating out of the same dish is amongst Burmese as perfect a form of marriage as a whole string of ceremonies could make it. Being free from prejudices of caste and creed Burmese readily fraternise with strangers at all times frankly yielding to the superiority of a European."

"That this system of morality which allows of marriage as a temporary measure, merely binding at the will of the parties, is of a low debased type must be granted, but it does not appear to necessarily affect the legal position of Burmese women in their social scale, if anything it rather tends to add to their independence. The state of society in Rome under the Empire offers another instance of this kind of thing. Some people, judging on matters of morals from a Christian and European standpoint, have formed a wrong conception of the actual position of the Burmese women socially. As with us the husband raises the wife to his own status, so even more perhaps as in Burma the wife popularly shares her husband's official position to a certain extent; for instance, a Revenue official's lady will receive tax money and give the receipt, while a Police officer's wife, in the absence of her husband will order out in pursuit of a criminal the 'posse comitatus' of the village, arrest, and send him off to court."

Openly living together as man and wife and eating out of the same dish constitutes a legal marriage amongst Burmese. Their freedom from prejudices of caste and creed admit of their readily fraternising with strangers. It will therefore be easily understood that, from a Burmese point of view, a Burmese woman temporarily living with a European is as much his wife as she would be the wife of a Burman were she living with him. In other words, the Burmese have no marriage ceremony as we Christians have, consequently the Burmese girl-companion of a European is in Burma and

of benefit to Indian Industry and Education.

The Board note that the Government of India in their Despatch of October 10th, contemplate cases in which the scholar will elect to pursue his studies in America, while in your letter of 25th February last, the sphere of study is limited to Great Britain or other European countries. If this discrepancy is due to inadvertence, the Board would take this opportunity of saying that in their opinion some of the scholars might derive special advantage from a course of residence in Europe.

If requested by the Secretary of State for India, the Board of Education, though unable to undertake responsibility for the personal supervision of the students, will be happy to give such advice as is within their competence, from time to time, as to the course of technological study best fitted to the needs of any particular scholar.

In reply to the question of the Secretary of State as to the sufficiency of the proposed annual allowance, the Board are of opinion that £100 annually (in addition to fees and travelling expenses) would not be adequate to the student's needs and they believe that this view is confirmed by the experience of those who have organised similar scholarship-systems for the Governments of Japan and Siam, but of course, much would depend on the social status of the scholars and on the country to which they were sent.

In this connection the Board of Education would be glad to receive more precise information as to the exact educational standing of the proposed scholarship holders. The Board are at present not clear whether it is contemplated that these scholars should pursue technical studies of the highest grade, or of an intermediate character, or whether they might even be of artisan rank but it is presumed that the reference is to the needs of the first two classes. In any case in which the Board might be called upon to advise with regard to any student they would desire to be furnished with a statement of his past educational experience and future requirements.

I have, etc.,
ROBERT L. MORANT.

The Under-Secretary of State for India.
No. 565-572, dated Simla, the 21st September 1903.

From—W. S. Marris, Esq., Under Secretary to the Government of India,
To—Local Governments and Administrations.

I am directed to forward, for your information a copy of the papers regarding the institution of State technical scholarships to enable natives of India to pursue a course of study in Great Britain or other Western countries.

2. In view of the doubts expressed by the Board of Education and the Secretary of State as to the sufficiency of the proposed amount of the scholarships, the Government of India think that it would be well to fix their value at £150 a year. As has been pointed out, however, the question depends largely upon the status of the scholar, and on the country to which he proceeds for study: and if in any particular case the Local Government regards the sum now named as insufficient the Governor-General in Council will be prepared to consider proposals for increasing it.

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by the Burmese regarded as his own wife. No European so allying himself can hide from the Burmese community at large the detail of his life or the relationship that the girl bears to him. Every Burman knows all about her, and if she be of respectable parentage, which many such a girl is, being the daughter of a Myook, subordinate Police officer, etc., she is treated with the due regard to the rank of her temporary protector by the Burmese people all over the country.

When a young Burman intends to ask for a Burmese girl to marriage he first sends some old people, better still a Myook or other official, to propose the matter to the girl's parents. The negotiation may be long or short; but, as a rule, the bridegroom, when accepted, simply goes to his father-in-law's house, and takes possession of his wife without any prescribed ceremonies. In the case of Europeans the girl is generally brought to the house by her relatives and left there.

The means resorted to by Europeans and the promises made in order to obtain the parents' consent to their daughter's coming to live with them of themselves go to show that it is most unjust on these women that when their keepers tire of them, they should be turned out, with perhaps young children to look after, possibly an infant at the breast, and be given nothing to support themselves on.

According to Buddhist law when a Burman divorces his wife he has generally to give her a share, according to circumstances, of the combined property of both. Should not therefore the European who takes advantage of the marriage laws of the Burmese be penalised by the impositions of the divorce laws of the land?

Had Government wished to uphold morality in Burma they could easily have done so long ago by amending Section 488 of the Criminal Procedure Code so that Buddhist women (who it must be remembered in living openly with Europeans commit no sin according to their religion) could claim maintenance for themselves (till married again) as well as for their children. Had this been done I do not think the numbers of Burmese mistress and illegitimate children in Burma would have been as great as they have been in the past or are to-day. There are very few bachelors in Burma who do not openly form temporary alliances with Burmese girls.

But would the amending of the law in this way induce British officers in Burma to marry Burmese wives, as many honourable men did after the public speech against the evils arising from temporary connections between European Officers and Burmese women, which Sir Alexander Mackenzie delivered at the meeting of the White Cross Society, held at Mandalay in 1894? and does the present Government of Burma want officers to legally and honourably marry Burmese wives rather than keep Burmese women?

Let us take the second question first:—

From the treatment officers receive who are legally married to Burmese wives it is manifest that the Government of Burma would far rather see a man keeping a Burmese mistress than legally and honourably married to a Burmese wife, a girl of however good family. The Government of Burma conveniently ignore the kept mistress, but not so the legally married wife of a high official.

The above conclusion is based on the fact that whilst appointing to, and retaining in, special appointments, officers keeping Burmese mistresses or officers with large families by Burmese women the present Government of Burma have refused similar appointments to officers legally married to Burmese wives for no other reason than that their wives are Burmese ladies.

It is perfectly disgraceful that something is not done to lessen the number of illegitimate Anglo-Burmese in Burma! In years to come, legitimate Anglo-Burmese will always live under a cloud, for, in the absence of accurate knowledge of their parentage, every one will think that they must necessarily be the illegitimate children of European fathers and Burmese mothers. In the interests of the growing children of Europeans legally and honourably married to Burmese wives, it is incumbent upon the Government of Burma to take suitable action in this direction.

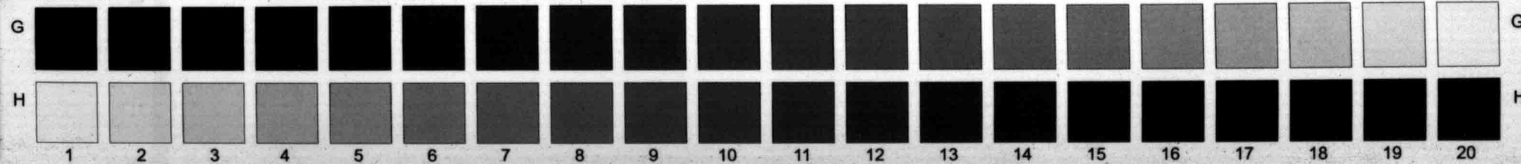
A question which Government might, it is thought, be well asked is—Whether a legally married Burmese wife with children to look after, having her husband's interests, her own and her children's should, in common fairness, be considered a greater source of danger to the Administration of Burma than a kept mistress, a woman who must necessarily live in that precarious state of never knowing the moment her keeper may tire of her and discharge her, and consequently a woman of whom it may be said that "it behoves her to make the most of her temporary term in office."

When the present code of Criminal Procedure was first written it was never contemplated that amongst the races of the Indian Empire would be found a race having no marriage laws, or a race whose women, if living openly with men of the other creeds, would, in the eyes of their fellow-countrymen, be looked upon as lawful wives.

Amongst Muhammadans, Hindus and almost every other creed in the Indian Empire there is a prescribed marriage ceremony, consequently women of these creeds know full well that, in living with Europeans and others without having gone through this ceremony or the Christian marriage ceremony, they are only looked upon as being questionable characters by their own people. In Burma, however, things are different. A Burmese woman in Burma living openly with a European is regarded as his wife by the Burmese Community at large. To keep a Burmese mistress without the whole Burmese Community for miles around knowing all about her is in Burma an impossibility.

Let Government treat Europeans legally and honourably married to Burmese wives properly and then we will have a race of Eurasian Anglo-Burmese sufficiently educated and left with a proper means of supporting itself, a race bringing no discredit on England's good name. Let Government on the other hand continue to treat officers legally married to Burmese wives as they have been treating them and in a few years no European will dare dream of marrying a Burmese wife, and the result will be that the whole of Burma will be overrun with a race of illegitimate Eurasian Anglo-Burmese left without any proper means of educating and supporting themselves, and in every way a source of very great discredit on the ruling race.

Is this not a matter in which the Church should move?—"The Indian Churchman."



THE
Amrita Bazar Patrika.

CALCUTTA, JANUARY 28, 1904.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS.

The answers given to the questions put by the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee, about the partition of Bengal, show unmistakably that Mr. Risley, who is believed to be the father, mother, sponsor, and nourisher of this revolutionary measure, is not in the best of humours. So the people must have done something to offend him. What is this something? Is it the order and constitutional agitation that is being carried on against the proposal? But we do not at all understand, why should such an attitude on the part of the people give offence to any body. It is the earnest desire of the Government that the people should freely communicate their wishes and grievances to their rulers, who are aliens. They have only done this and nothing else, in the way open to them. Surely no member of the Government can mean that the people, when they have anything to say to the Government, must not do it. If the agitation has really given offence to any high official, he should, we trust, be more generous. For, the people do not mean offence; they have resorted to it, because, no other course is left for them.

There is a ring of hostility in the answers which is unmistakable, and which we deeply deplore. The answers suggest that the Government and the people are at war, that they are fighting with each other for something. Be it so. If the Government and the people are two opposite parties to the dispute, who is to decide between them? Who is the Judge? The Judge is the same Government again! The position is then this: the Government and the people are fighting, and the same Government will finally decide the issue! Surely this is an unreasonable position for the Government to take, and not fair to the people.

The Government claims, that the documents containing the opinions of the High Court and other authorities about the transfer of Chittagong to Assam recorded in 1896, are its own property. The contention of the people is that they are not the property of the Government at all, they are the property of the people, at least a property, which belongs to all. Here the Government and the people are at issue. Where is the Munsiff or the Sub-Judge to decide this point?

Then what does the Government mean by declaring that the opinion of the High Court is its own? Is it a property at all? The paper on which the opinion is written or printed may be a Government property; we, however, do not want that piece of paper but the arguments and opinions it contains. We can not even concede that the paper, on which the report is recorded, belongs to the Government; for, it was purchased from the proceeds of the taxes which the people paid. Then, what part of the document does the Government claim as its own? The views of the Hon'ble Judges, and the arguments, facts and figures that they advanced?

Assuming that the Government stands in the position of a complainant and the people that of a defendant, let us see whether the Government has any right to withhold the production of the opinions of the High Court. The defence urges that the complainant has a document in his possession, the contents of which will favour his cause. If the complainant admits the existence of the document but declines to produce it, the Judge is bound to either dismiss his case or to compel him to divulge its contents. But unfortunately here the complainant is the Judge himself!

Then, when the Government declines to allow the papers to see the light of the day, it raises the suspicion that they are not favourable, perhaps fatal, to its project. We think it is not worthy of any Government, much less the enlightened Government of India, to win its case by suppressing public documents.

There is one answer of Sir D. Ibbetson which deserves especial notice. Dr. Ashutosh asked a question about the financial arrangements which would be necessary, if the Bengal districts were transferred to Assam. In reply Sir D. Ibbetson says that, when a final decision has been arrived at, then the Government will discuss this question. So they intend to make an arrangement first, and then to discuss its merits and demerits. We do not think that is the usual way. The usual way is to first discuss the matter thoroughly in all its phases, and then introduce an important project. But Sir D. Ibbetson, we mean, as Secretary Mr. Risley, would propose to take a quite contrary course. We have, however, to submit that, the Hon'ble Home Member will find it safer and more profitable, if he were first to discuss the merits and demerits of an arrangement before trying to carry it out. The world does its business in this manner.

One thing is abundantly clear from the vague answers given to the questions put by Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee. It is this that the Government has no case, and that it has discovered it at last. Neither was the Government aware that its project would evoke such universal opposition. It would and irrevocable, the Government is advised by some of its members to win, even by condescending to suppress public documents. How are we to convince the authorities that if it assumes the role of a partizan, it not only comes down from its exalted position, but lays itself open to the charge that it has taken an ungenerous advantage of the helpless condition of the people?

THEY AGREE IN THE TRANSFER,
BUT DISAGREE ABOUT THE
REASONS.

Is the Hon'ble Sir D. Ibbetson aware that his answers to the questions of Dr. Ashutosh Mukherjee, are not only not to the point, but do not quite agree with some of those given by his predecessor to similar interrogatories? Is he also aware that, in 1896, the Government of India and the Government of Bengal assigned different reasons for territorial changes from those given now? It is really a curious fact that the Government of Lord Elgin should say one thing, the Government of Sir Alexander Mackenzie another, and the Government of Lord Curzon yet another, in regard to the same questions, namely, about the reasons for the necessity of transfer, they are agreed; they are only not agreed about the reasons for it.

When the Chittagong Division was sought to be annexed in 1896, the late Sir John Woodburn, the then Home Member of the Indian

Government, gave the following reply to the question of the late Babu Mohan, Mohan Roy, then a member of the Supreme Council, on the 6th of February, 1896:—

"The Government of India have received representations which show that the idea of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam is regarded with dissatisfaction by some people of the Division. The Government of India decided in 1892 that the Chittagong District should be transferred to Assam as soon as settlement operations were concluded in it. It was at the same time decided that the expediency of transferring the whole of the Chittagong Division should be considered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam. That question is now under the consideration of those authorities and will be eventually submitted for the decision of the Government of India."

"The Government of India will give attentive consideration to any representations against the proposed transfer which the people of the Chittagong Division may submit through the Government of Bengal; but they do not think it necessary to publish at present any papers relating to the matter."

In answer to a further question by the same member on the 26th of February, the same Home Member replied as follows:—

"The main grounds which led the Government of India to decide that the question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam should be considered by the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal and the Chief Commissioner of Assam were the following:—

"The Government of India considered it desirable, if possible, to relieve the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal of some portion of a charge which, owing to the development of the country and the growth of the population, threatens to become too large to be administered by one Government. Assam, on the other hand, is the smallest province in British India for which there is a separate administration, and the addition to it of the Chittagong Division would not have the effect of throwing too great a burden on the Chief Commissioner. The interests of that province will be materially benefited by its being brought into direct communication with the sea, while those of the port of Chittagong are likely to receive more attention when it is annexed to Assam than can be given to it as one of several ports connecting the province of Bengal with the sea. It is desirable that the whole of the territory through which the Assam-Bengal Railway will run should be brought under one administration."

Let us now quote the answer of Sir Alexander Mackenzie to the question of the Hon'ble Babu Guru Prosad Sen in the Local Council on 21st of March 1896:—

"The proposal to transfer the Chittagong Division to Assam was put forward in a conference which met in Calcutta in January, 1892, to examine certain questions relating to the country of the Lushai and Chin tribes. It was suggested that if the South Lushai Hills, with their avenues of access through the Chittagong District, were transferred to Assam, as was strongly recommended, it would be convenient that the whole Chittagong Division should also be transferred."

In reply to Babu Guru Prosad, Sir Alexander further said that, "he is aware that the transfer of a territory from one administration to another cannot be a matter of indifference to the people of the tract affected, and no such transfer will be made without affording them an opportunity of expressing their sentiments in regard to it." Mr. Risley would ignore the sentiments of the people altogether, but it will be seen Sir A Mackenzie was of a different opinion.

We shall now reproduce the reply of the Hon'ble Sir D. Ibbetson to the questions of the Hon'ble Dr. Mukherjee:—

"The attention of the Government of India was directed, in 1892, to territorial re-adjustments on the Eastern frontier of Bengal, in connection with the administration of the Lushai Hills. The first proposal was to transfer the Chittagong District to Assam as soon as the revision of settlement then in progress was finished, and the Assam-Bengal railway was nearing completion. The transfer of the whole Chittagong Division was also considered; and during the discussion which ensued, it was proposed to transfer the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh as well. Various authorities were consulted; and in 1897 the proposal was laid aside for the time being."

So what we find is this. In 1896 the Government of India stated that (1) to afford relief to the over-worked Government of Bengal; (2) to give work to the under-worked Government of Assam; (3) to secure a direct communication for the latter with the sea; (4) to place the Assam-Bengal Railway under one Government; that the Division of Chittagong was to be relegated to a non-regulation rule after it had enjoyed one and a half century's Regulation Government.

But the then Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, who was in a better position than any body else to decide the question whether the Government of Bengal was over-worked or not, and to whom the matter was specially referred, and not at all agree with the Government of India on that point. For, if Sir Alexander had agreed, he would have, like the Home Member, said first of all that one of the grounds for the proposed transfer was that he was over-worked with work. On the other hand, he assigned a different ground for the transfer. He said that, it was mainly to afford to the Chief Commissioner 'avenues of access through the District of Chittagong' to the South Lushai Hills that the Chittagong District and Division were to be transferred, and not because, as the Government of India said, Bengal was too heavy a charge for one Lieutenant-Governor. Thus, here, the Government of India and the Government of Bengal in 1896, though not actually contradicting each other, at least, urged two quite different grounds for the transfer.

What the Chief Commissioner of Assam, to whom also the matter was referred, said, is not exactly known. For, the opinion of Sir Henry Cotton has been kept concealed in an iron safe in one of the darkest vaults of the Government House. But this much is admitted by Mr. Risley in his letter to the Government of Bengal that, Sir Henry was greatly opposed to the proposition of transferring the Chittagong Division. So, what we gather is that, in 1896, the Government of India urged one, and the Government of Bengal urged another, ground, for the dismemberment; that Sir Alexander promised to respect the sentiments of the people; and that Sir Henry Cotton was dead against the annexation.

ANALYSIS OF HOME MEMBER'S ANSWERS.

Let us now analyse the answers of Sir D. Ibbetson in the light of the above. First of all, the Government was asked by the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh to furnish every necessary information in connection with the proposed transfer of Chittagong in 1892 and 1896. What the Hon'ble Home Member has done, however, is to withhold all such information, and frame its reply in a way which is not only vague, but simply unintelligible. Just see.

The gist of Dr. Ashutosh's first question was whether the transfer of Chittagong was proposed in 1892; if so, why? The reply of the Home Member is that, the "attention of the Government of India was directed in 1892 to territorial re-adjustments in the Eastern frontier of Bengal, in connection with the administration of the Lushai Hills." So Dr. Ashutosh gets no answer to his question; for, the Government does not say either yes or no to the question whether Chittagong was sought to be annexed in 1892.

But, would it be believed that the Government of India in 1896 admitted (vide its reply to Babu Mohan quoted above) that, not merely "the attention of the Indian Government was directed to territorial adjustment &c" but that "the Government of India decided in 1892 that the Chittagong District should be transferred to Assam." Thus, this piece of information was not given, though this is what the Hon'ble member for Bengal wanted.

Let us now see how the Hon'ble Home Member disposes of the most important question of Dr. Ashutosh, which is as follows:—

"Will the Government be pleased to state whether it is true that in or about the year 1896, when the Chittagong Division was proposed to be transferred to the Assam Administration, Dacca and Mymensingh were not contemplated to be included in the scheme of transfer? If so, will the Government be pleased to state the specific reasons which have led them to change their views since 1896 and to propose their transfer in 1903?"

The above the Home Member replies that, "during the discussion that ensued (in 1896) it was proposed to transfer the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh as well." That is to say, it is not true, as Dr. Ashutosh suggested in his question, that Dacca and Mymensingh were not contemplated to be included in the scheme of transfer in 1896. In short, Dr. Ashutosh suggested that at that time Dacca and Mymensingh were not proposed to be annexed and the Government reply was, that it was. But let us see how this matter was disposed of by the Government of Lord Elgin. On the 26th of February, 1896, Babu Mohan Mohan Roy put two other questions to the Government. They are as follows:—

"Whether the attention of Government has been drawn to a paragraph in the 'Amrita Bazar Patrika' of the 14th (February) instant, which says:—'While on this subject (transfer of the Chittagong Division) that the transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh to Assam is also under contemplation along with the Chittagong Division reaches us also.'"

"2. Will Government be pleased to state whether any such proposal has been made and is under its consideration?"

And the reply of Sir John Woodburn as Home Member was:—

"1. The Government of India have noticed the reference in the newspaper ('Amrita Bazar Patrika') referred to by the Hon'ble Member as to the report that the transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh to Assam is under contemplation."

"2. The Government of India have made no proposal that Dacca and Mymensingh should be transferred to Assam nor is such a proposal at present under their consideration."

So the situation is this. The present Home Member says:—

In 1896 "it was proposed to transfer the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh as well."

While Sir John Woodburn as Home Member said in 1896 that not only "have the Government of India made no such proposal, but such a proposal at present is not under their consideration."

So, one Hon'ble Home Member contradicts the other diametrically. Whom are we to believe? The great importance of the above question of Dr. Ashutosh consists in this, it was admitted that, there was no talk of the transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh in 1896, then the Government would have been under the necessity of giving reasons why they were going to include these two districts now in their scheme. It was expected that the Government would never deny this fact, for it was admitted by the Government of Lord Elgin, whose information on this point was of course more accurate than that of the present. But, wonder of wonders, the Hon'ble Home Member, that is to say, His Secretary Mr. Risley, tries to extricate the Government out of the difficulty by flatly contradicting the statement of the previous Home Member, Sir John Woodburn!

THE HIGH-CLASS AGRICULTURAL
COLLEGE AT PUSA.

To the question of the Hon'ble Babu Sree Ram, why the subject of agriculture has been excluded from the scope of the scholarships for the improvement of technical education, the Government was pleased to vouchsafe the following answers:—

"Agriculture has been excluded from the present scheme for several reasons. In the first place the primary object of the scheme is, by encouraging and facilitating the development of arts and industries other than agriculture, more especially by the aid of indigenous capital and enterprise, to provide diversity of employment for the natives of the country, and to relieve the pressure upon the land which results from their energies being almost wholly confined to agriculture. In the second place, the present scheme is far too narrow, if agriculture is to be included among its objects. Moreover, it is believed that the science of agriculture will be studied by natives of India to greater advantage in their own country than in countries where the conditions differ widely from those obtaining here. As I explained in the course of the debate upon the Budget, it is intended to create a high-class Agricultural College at Pusa; and we do not propose to extend the present scheme so as to include agriculture, at any rate until we know what Pusa will give us."

The answers seem to us to be very unsatisfactory. Let us first of all take the first part for examination. The Government seems to think that as almost the whole energies of the

nation are being applied to agriculture, any improvement in that art will only increase that energy. And, if that energy is intensified, the pressure upon the land and the number of agriculturalists will be increased.

In short, the idea suggested by the answer of the Government seems to be this, that any improvement in agriculture will only intensify the evil that exists at present, namely, it will increase the pressure upon land. We humbly beg to differ from this extraordinary view. We think any improvement in agriculture will only relieve the land of its pressure and not increase it. Let us see, how far this view is correct.

The object of the art of agriculture is to make the land yield a larger quantity and better quality of crops at smaller costs. At the present moment, we can make one Bigga of land yield only, say, seven maunds of grain. By the art of agriculture, we can increase the yield, say, two-fold. Which means that by improved agriculture we can make five Biggas yield as much grain as ten Biggas do now. This means that by agriculture, we can give relief to half of our lands, if by it we can make the yield twice of what it is now.

Just now land is so hard-pressed that it is almost impossible for the peasants to give it rest. It is, however, absolutely necessary to give the land rest to enable it to recoup its strength. But the peasant cannot afford to do it and hence, as for instance, jute is deteriorating in Bengal, and hence there is scarcely any fallow land in the country. Thus one can see that by improving the art of agriculture, we can relieve the pressure that already exists, and not increase it.

The other object of agriculture is to make, roundly speaking, arid lands yield a crop. There are lands which are inferior in strength, the object of agriculture is to improve their capacity. There are lands which are considered arid, that is, lands where nothing grows. The object of agriculture is to make such lands fruitful. Take for instance the vast tracts of arid land which every one will find who travels up by the E.I. Railway from Calcutta in the South Pargannas. The object of agriculture is to make these arid lands, lands which yield nothing or very little, grow a crop. Now, suppose if by agriculture, some of these arid lands of India can be made to yield crops, will not that lessen the pressure upon land? It will, so the contention of the Government, that it will increase the pressure upon land, is not based upon reason.

Then, as we said before, agriculture does not only increase the yield but also improve the quality of the crop. Take an example: The sugar contents of sugar-canes have been raised in the West Indies and Java by chemical processes in the same way as those of beet in Germany, the beet which has threatened the sugar industry of India. Absolutely nothing has been done in this country in that direction, though the important industry of sugar in India is threatened with destruction.

Any one can see what the above means. It means that by this chemical process Java or the West Indies are making, say, one Bigga of land yield the same quantity of sugar which they had before from two. If the canes are improved in India that will give relief, and not put additional pressure upon lands, devoted to sugar-cane.

Sugar-cane used to be imported to the West Indies from here, and they are now destroying our manufactures. Cotton was imported from here to Carolina, and India has been again beaten. Tobacco grows here luxuriantly, but it has little value. And, above all, is the Government aware that jute is deteriorating in quality? Where is the man to stop it? Who knows how to do it? Who cares?

Surely not the Government, for it has certainly a faint interest in the subject. Or it would have never contended that agriculture increases pressure upon land. The fact is, the previous Governments had no heart in the work at all. Even where some improvements were made, the Government had not the energy to utilize them for the benefit of the people. Thus for instance some good results were obtained by experiments in the Burdwan Farm. We dare say the Government knows nothing about them, at least we know for certain that no attempt has yet been made to popularize the results obtained in Burdwan. The improvements are recorded in Government reports and we dare say nobody in the Government service knows anything about them.

Of course there is the "high-class Agricultural College at Pusa." This name has a good sound in it, and is likely to captivate the heart. But what is it for? Is it for show? Or is it for the purpose of providing a few berths for Europeans? Of course this is bitter, but it is a fact that the institution is to be put in charge of a European, who has a good knowledge of the delectable industry of indigo? But does he know anything of agriculture? It is proposed, we understand, to put the institution in charge of one Mr. Coventry, previously an indigo-planter. We hope none will be permitted to enter the institution who is not an expert, and we hope Mr. Coventry is one if he has been selected.

We have, however, hopes that "the high-class Agricultural College at Pusa" (what a high-sounding name!) will not be permitted to be reduced into a delusion and a snare, for we know Lord Curzon has a sincere desire to do something substantial in the way of agriculture, and Sir Andrew Fraser is a real friend of the Indians. We hope, however, the idea of providing for the Poor Whites by this means of "a high-class Agricultural College at Pusa" (we are fond of repeating this gorgeous name) would be given up. We hope to return to the subject shortly.

The "Englishman" has opposed the Government project of partition in an able and most effective article. It is reproduced elsewhere. One may ask, why should the "Englishman" which is supposed, like the "Pioneer," to be a semi-official organ, denounce the Government project in such vigorous language? The answer is easy. It is very unfortunate that the Government, whose position in this country is too exalted and which ought to be beyond the reach of any personal feeling, should forget itself and assume the role of an opponent. But honest Anglo-Indian newspapers, honest and patriotic, have no reason to be so influenced. They have eyes to see the true interests of the Empire which the Government, when it is afflicted by jaundice, cannot do. What the "Englishman" feels, and we believe every Englishman, not afflicted by jaundice, will see in the same way—is that the Government had no business to cut the Laitakuri bund and

deluge Bengal. Bengal was quiet; the peasants were tilling their lands peacefully; and each was doing his respective business in the usual way. Why was this state of things disturbed and unrest created in the land? For what earthly benefit was the country so convulsed? This is what the "Englishman"—possibly every unprejudiced Englishman—thinks; for the "Pioneer" also is not an upholder of the Government project. The "Englishman" appeals to the sense of justice and generosity of Lord Curzon when it asks his Lordship to explain why should the Bengalees like to be divided when his Lordship did not himself like to be parted from the Irish?

Elsewhere is reproduced an article from the "Indian Churchman" which requires the serious attention of the Government as well as of those European Christians who are interested in the morality of their countrymen in this country. The writer of the article deals with the social evil that prevails in Burmah, and which is growing apace. There is no legal marriage tie in that country. When a man and woman live and mess together openly, they are regarded as husband and wife. Similarly they can separate themselves at their sweet will, and when they do so, the wife has no claim upon the husband for her maintenance. Now the Burmans manage very well when they marry among themselves; but, a great difficulty arises when a Burmese girl forms a matrimonial connection with a European. The latter, when he is tired of her, casts her aside in the wide world, and she cannot claim any compensation from him, even though she had children by him. The writer in the "Indian Churchman" says that, there are very few bachelors in Burmah who do not openly contract such temporary marriages with Burmese girls. One can thus easily imagine the gigantic nature of this social evil. We very well remember how a Burmese woman came all the way from Burmah to seek her European husband in Calcutta who held her one of the highest appointments under the Government. Having married her in Burmah according to the Burmese custom noted above, the officer turned her out and stopped her maintenance when he came out to Calcutta. One evening, while sitting in his parlour, the officer was surprised by the Burmese woman who, by bringing an old servant of her temporary husband known to her in Burmah, had secured an entry into the house. The officer was simply stunned, but he managed to nip the scandal in the bud by adopting a most extraordinary step. He sent for the Police Commissioner, got the woman arrested, and had her deported back to Burmah in the course of the same night! All these facts were stated in an article in "Vanity Fair" and reproduced, we believe, in several Indian papers.

The writer in the "Indian Churchman" suggests two remedies for the above evil. One is to amend section 488 of the Criminal Procedure Code so that Buddhist women could claim maintenance for themselves as well as for their children. We think, there could be no objection to this proposal. The other is to encourage those forming such alliances legally marrying these Burmese wives rather than keeping them as mistresses. But, we are astonished to learn that, the present Government of Burmah, instead of doing it, is indirectly going the other way. In short, says the writer, from the treatment officers receive who are legally married, it is abundantly clear that the Government of Burmah would far rather see a man keeping a Burmese mistress than legally and honourably married to a Burmese wife. This is a serious charge and should be rebutted. The writer says that there are at present many Europeans who would immediately marry the Burmese women they are keeping if they were not socially persecuted and if the Local Administration would not accord them unfair treatment. We trust, the subject will attract the notice of the present viceroy who, as every body knows, is very much opposed to this kind of loose morality. Either the European bachelors should be prevented from injuring the reputation of their nation by contracting these immoral marriages, or they should be compelled to marry these women legally. A growing race of illegitimate Eurasian Anglo-Burmans will not only bring disgrace upon the ruling nation, but prove a menace to the Burmese people themselves.

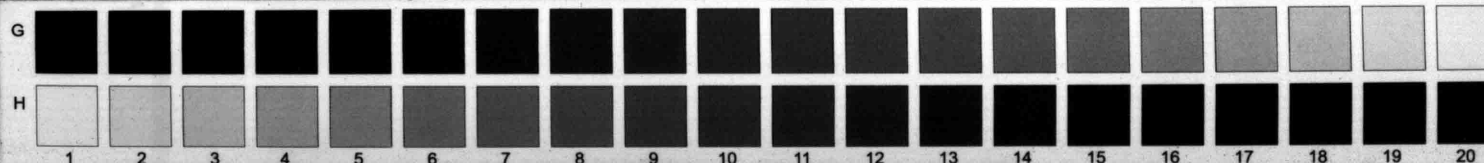
The "Daily Paper" of Mr. Stead was issued on the 4th January, and the first few issues are before us. Mr. Stead's idea is to start a paper which is based upon morality and no expediency. It is a great experiment in a country of the West. In his extensive survey of mankind from China to Peru, we hope Mr. Stead will not overlook India. In the issue before us we have only one paragraph about this country, though it is a good one, in regard to India Mr. Stead says:—

"India to us is a hundred millions of homes in which many millions go hungry all the year. We shall shoulder the White Man's Burden, not dump our share upon our starveling wards."

The issues before us are exceedingly interesting and refreshing to read. The Patron Saint of the daily paper is Joan of Arc, the greatest enemy of his country.

The "Overland Mail" has the following strong objections to the supposed attempt of the Government to protect its secrets:—

"We have often insisted in these columns that one of the chief advantages of the selection of Viceroy and some other high official notably the Governors of Madras and Bombay from the circle of home politicians instead of from the civilian rank in India, is that the former are more in touch with public opinion at home than the latter, engrossed as they are in local politics and administration, can possibly be. The attempt to tamper with the jury in Bengal afforded an instance in which the local authorities showed themselves to be entirely out of tune with public and Parliamentary feeling in this country, and were obliged to abandon proposals which no doubt, them, in the atmosphere by which they were surrounded, seemed to be quite natural and unimpeachable. It is to be hoped that Lord Curzon's absence from England, and the intensity and sympathy with which he has thrown himself into his Indian work, have not dull his sensibility to the fact, which his Parliamentary and political experience must have brought home to him very keenly, that, no ever great may be the confidence of the pub



in his great qualities as a statesman and administrator, and their appreciation of the eminent services he has rendered as Viceroy, any stretching of the arbitrary powers which he wields in virtue of his office beyond limits which may appear to the British public to be unreasonable would most certainly expose him to check by Parliamentary action—and perhaps to some humiliation.

"It is for this reason that we hope that before Parliament meets we shall hear that the Official Secrets Bill, which is universally condemned by the Indian Press, has been withdrawn, or deprived of its objectionable features."

It is thus made clear what English opinion is on this subject. Let the objectionable features of the measure be removed, that is all that both the Indians and Anglo-Indians want. Let it remain for the purpose of protecting military secrets only.

The assault on Bishop Whitley shows how some over-zealous christian missionaries brag disaster upon themselves and others by their indiscretion. The story of the Bishop is as follows: Relying upon the words of a native christian named Sadrap, he went to Pannu, some 26 miles in the interior from Purlia, to preach to the people there, who, it was stated, were friendly disposed. It, however, transpired that the conversion of Sadrap and a few others, who were outcasted, had very much exasperated the villagers, and they were only waiting their opportunity to take revenge upon the missionaries when the Bishop arrived. One Muchiram was accused by Sadrap and told that he himself and the Bishop had come to "give you good news," which no doubt means, to convert him to christianity. Thereupon Muchiram got angry and replied, "Do you want to take away my caste?" The Bishop said, "No." But Muchiram and his son did not believe him. They beat both Sadrap and the Bishop, and the latter was so severely assaulted that his head bled profusely and, in a dizzy state, he left the village, and arrived at Purlia safe. This is the version of the Bishop. The version of the other party is not yet before us. But, taking the statement of the Bishop as absolutely correct, it must be admitted that he committed a very indiscreet act by coming in contact with people who were in a frenzied state of mind owing to some of their relations being converted and out-casted. We understand that a criminal case has been instituted and surely the aggrieved has every right to secure redress in that way. But this is also certain that the cause of Christianity will not be served if the Bishop now figures in a criminal court and tries to secure condign punishment for his assailants. If the version of the missionary is correct, the villagers did great wrong in assaulting him. But it must be borne in mind that they are a people not far advanced, and they dread loss of caste as worse than death which they thought the missionary was going to deprive them of. And then, did not Jesus Christ preach that, when one cheek is struck, the other should be turned? How could the Bishop, in the face of this precept of his great master, think of prosecuting the misguided men criminally? That man alone is fit to preach Christianity who is able to follow the precepts of his master.

As regards the scholarships to Indian students, which the Government has founded for the improvement of technical education, the original idea was to pay each of the selected students £100 a year besides travelling expenses and fees. In reference to this the Secretary of State says that, when in 1887 the Government was dealing with the existing Government scholarships of £200 a year, it thought that the sum was inadequate to meet the expenses of students residing in European countries for education. The Government of India taking this matter into consideration has agreed to increase the value of the scholarships from £100 to £150. Whether £150 a year, besides travelling expenses and fees, is sufficient for a student is what no one can tell at present. This much we, however, beg to say that we have no right to grumble. We have to be thankful even for small mercies. For this is the first time, after long years, that the Government has adopted a measure the object of which is to benefit Indians. The Government has left it to students to select their subjects of study, the country where they propose to go and the institution which they choose to enter. We, however, think the Government should help them with information. The Government can easily publish a statement showing the subjects that are open to the students for study, and in what country and in what institutions they should go for the purpose of accomplishing their mission successfully. The Industrial Association of Calcutta and those who interest themselves on the subject should come forward with their suggestions. Does the Government incline seriously to agriculture? What we mean is that the silk industry in India attracted foreign merchants to Indian ports in days gone by, but it has been destroyed. The original home of silk is India and this country ought to be able to manufacture as good material as Italy or any other country. Dyeing is an art which was imported to Europe from India, but the art has been destroyed. There is great opening for glass-manufacture, the manufacture of lucifer matches etc. A soap manufactory has already been opened by students who have gone to Japan to study this art, and they have succeeded in manufacturing very good material. Then as regards the selection of candidates Local Governments have been given absolute powers. The Local Governments are directed thus:—

"In making the selection they should bear in mind the fact that it will be necessary for the student to have a competent knowledge of English, or of the language of any other country to which he is to be sent; and they should also be guided by considerations of his capacity, intelligence, practical interest in the industry, and the assurance which they feel, that he will continue to devote himself to it on his return to India."

So, if a student intends to go to Germany to study the art of dyeing, he must have a knowledge of the German language. Let those who intend to go to Germany or France learn the languages necessary to enable them to secure the scholarship. The Government does not prescribe any age limit and this shows the good intentions of the Government in an unmistakable manner. Yet, we believe, young men alone will be selected.

There is a grim humour connected with the attempt of the advisers of the Government of India to suppress so-called public documents, which should not be lost upon the people. That the Calcutta High Court, Sir Henry Cotton and others had strongly opposed the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam in 1896 was admitted by Mr. Risley in his letter to the Bengal Government. Then the purport of the reports of these authorities had already been published in the columns of the "Patrika." The public were thus in possession of the contents of these documents when the Hon'ble Dr. Ashutosh Mukhopadhyaya interpellated the Government on the subject and requested it to lay them on the table of the Council. The Government, however, refused to do so on the ground that they were its own property and that the public had no right to see them. But the public had already known its contents. Thus, we cannot congratulate those advisers of the Government, who made it cut a most ridiculous figure. Fancy, the Government was advised to withhold the publication of documents whose contents were already published in newspapers and known from one end of the country to the other! However, in the interests of the public, we deem it a duty to give publicity to the Notes of the High Court and Sir Henry Cotton and they are published elsewhere. A perusal of the documents will show why the authors of the partition scheme were not anxious to allow the public to see these important documents. It will be seen in what strong terms was the proposed transfer of Chittagong condemned by Sir Henry and the High Court.

There is a grave aspect of the question relating to the attempt of some advisers of the Government to suppress public documents, which ought to engage the serious attention of our public bodies. As far as we remember, this is the first time that the production of official papers of a purely non-political character, in which a whole nation is vitally interested, has been refused by the Government when asked by a member of Council to do so. This is all the more surprising, as the Government of Lord Curzon has the reputation of being more liberal than its predecessors. As a matter of fact, his Lordship has always shown due deference to public opinion. What we believe is that, His Excellency left the matter entirely in the hands of his subordinates, and they adopted a course which can never be agreeable to a Viceroy, who has a Parliamentary training and who is an ardent lover of fair play. All the same, here is a precedent created which is fraught with danger. Now, if the Government can withhold the publication of such documents, as the reports of the High Court and the Chief Commissioner on the proposed transfer of Chittagong, on the ground that they were the properties of the Government, nothing will prevent it, on the same principle, from producing every piece of official paper, however important it may be, in the interests of the public. This means a grave public calamity, and the Viceroy should be approached on this subject.

We said the other day that with rare exceptions, the writers of English fictions have always traduced the Indians through their books. If there is an Indian character in their stories, rest assured that he is depicted as a rogue. But such a writer is not "Ouida" and we must acknowledge it thankfully. Thus in the tale "The Massarenes," it is asked whether the heroine was in India among the "blacks" and the inquirer was told that there were no "blacks" in India. We call the following passage from the book:—

"How vulgar, how fussy, how common the conquerors look beside the conquered Indians. Go into a bank, a counting house, a police station, and see the calm, stately, proud, reposeful natives in their flowing robes, bulled and sworn at by some snug, sandy-haired, snub-nosed, official in a checked suit and a pot hat! One wishes for a &c....."

Of course wishing for a second mutiny and a successful one is going too far, but it shows the bitter feeling of the novelist against wrongs by the strong upon the weak. It is no longer unknown in England that the Indians are treated sometimes very roughly by their English masters—not only by the lower classes, but sometimes by those who ought to be, for their exalted position, above men. Is it a rare spectacle in India for a high official with almost irresistible powers pursuing an Indian with unrelenting vigor?

In a brief summary we noticed the other day Babu Akshoy Kumar Ghose's article in the December number of the "Hindustan Review" on "Industrial education in our schools." We are glad to notice that Mr. Malabar in the "Voice of India" and "Indian Spectator" for January 23 agrees with us and recommends it to the notice of the authorities, whose duty it is to look after the educational and industrial welfare of the nation. The "Voice of India" says:—"We notice elsewhere the Government of India's resolution on industrial schools in India. Even in the ordinary schools where no industries are taught, the methods of education may be so moulded as to give an impetus to the development of the industrial or creative instinct in children. This idea is skilfully elaborated by Mr. Akshoy Kumar Ghose in a paper on industrial education in the December number of the 'Hindustan Review.' The kindergarten system recognises the principle that an education which brings out all the faculties of the student should not be merely literary or abstract, but that the student should be asked to handle concrete objects, experiment upon them, take pleasure in applying and inventing and learn even the abstract ideas of mathematics and physics as much as possible through material objects. Such an education will create an industrial tendency within, which will seek industrial tuition without, and find its fruition in industrial enterprise." The idea can be utilized by enterprising school masters without even any mandate from their superiors.

It is gradually getting to be admitted that jails are a blot upon civilization, the punishment of hanging being more so. It is gratifying to see that, in England, a movement has been set on foot with the object of getting this inhuman sort of punishment abolished. In India, however, a different state of things prevails. Here the Judges vie with one another, as it were, in passing severe sentences recklessly. We reproduced an account of a murder case from the "Pioneer" in which eleven men were adjudged to be hanged by the Additional Judge of Moradabad, for committing murder.

On appeal to the Allahabad High Court, their Lordships confirmed the sentences of death in regard to three accused but as regards the other eight men, they commuted the sentences to one of transportation for life. So the Additional Judge of Moradabad had no scruples to send eight God's creatures to the gallows, when a less severe sentence was considered sufficient for their offence by the local High Court. Fancy the spectacle of eleven men swinging with ropes round their neck!

Scraps.

Lord Amphil, we understand, will leave Madras towards the end of April and proceed to Simla, where he will take over the Viceroyalty from Lord Curzon in the first week in May.

The Behar paper relates a very sensational occurrence which has lately taken place at Mathiari. Two Europeans—an official and a non-official—tried their strength in a public place. Like the Feni incident in which two Indian officials quarrelled in the Dak Bungalow, the Mathiari occurrence was unfortunately witnessed by others, and it was a sight worthy of the gods to see, for none yielded till the one actually assaulted the other. Habit is said to be the second nature, and the habit of constantly assaulting the natives of the soil with impunity, perhaps led the white-skinned gentleman to play his pranks upon his own countryman.

It is very pleasant to learn that from the 1st April, evening or continuation classes will be opened by the Education Department in Lahore for young men and women who desire to carry out their education. No fees are charged. Classes for the youths of the soil will be held in connection with the central model school; those for European young men and women in suitable localities in the civil station. The subjects taught will include English, Mathematics, Science, Drawing, Shorthand, Typewriting, Book-keeping, Domestic Economy, etc. The nature of the classes to be formed will depend on the kind and extent of the demand.

A few particulars are available of the interview which Colonel Younghusband has had with some of the envoys from Lhasa. The Lhasa General offered favourable terms if the British force retired to Yatung. Colonel Younghusband replied that it was too late for any such course. The General then threatened trouble if the advance was continued. Colonel Younghusband replied that though he was hopeful of a peaceful settlement, he was also fully prepared to meet opposition, and he advised the General to inform the Lhasa Government accordingly. The General is evidently the most moderate of the envoys, but is overweighed by the Lamas, who are obstructive as regards a peaceful settlement. The interview was friendly.

Not much progress has been made over the question of connecting Ceylon with the round-the-world all-India cable. The idea all along was that the connection would be at the Cocos Islands, where a telegraph station has been established, but Mr. C. H. Reynolds, C.I.E., General Manager of the Pacific Cable Board, when recently in Ceylon, expressed his opinion in favour of connection with the island of Rodrigues, off Mauritius. Mr. Reynolds held the same view when he gave evidence before the International Cable Commission recently at Home; but most of the members of the Commission favoured the Cocos route. The difference of opinion obviously delays the completion of an important undertaking.

When, after years of agitation, we got the privilege of interpellation in our Legislative Councils, we expected much. But from the manner in which the Hon'ble members reply to the questions put by the elected members, it seems we were much deluded. We wanted bread but the Government gave us stone. At the Madras Legislative Council the Hon'ble Mr. G. Srinivasa Row put the following questions:—Have the Government obtained any information regarding the number of the people—men, women and children—who have been rendered homeless by the recent rains and floods in Madras, and have any, and if so, what steps have been taken to afford suitable relief to them. Will the Government be pleased to trace out the exact causes for such large submergence of the town under water and take the steps necessary to protect the city against future danger by more effective drainage? The Hon'ble Mr. Hammick answered on behalf of Government as follows:—

"The Government have received no official information on the subject. The cause of the recent floods was the very heavy and abnormal rainfall of the 30th and 31st December, which occurred at a time when previous exceptionally heavy rains had already filled all tanks and reservoirs." Apparently the Hon'ble member took much pain in assigning the true cause to the effect. It was a grand discovery indeed! And the people of Madras must be thankful to Hon'ble Member for leaving that the recent floods were due to the abnormal rainfall. But with reference to the specific demand, whether the government will be pleased to take the steps necessary "to protect the city against future danger by more effective drainage," the government had no answer to give.

The final reports show the total area under sown in the British districts and Native States of the Bombay Presidency, inclusive of Sind, at 1,106,000 acres against an estimate of 820,000 acres made in October last. The increase is due to subsequent sowings and to the receipt of more complete information. The total area now returned is 13 per cent over last year's area and about 37 per cent in excess of the average of the preceding 10 years. As already reported, the increase is principally due to larger sowings in Gujarat States, induced by favourable sowing rains. Sind alone shows a small diminution in area due to damage by insects and disease. Though the crop suffered in parts of Gujarat through moisture, in the Karnatak and Konkan from excessive rain, and in Sind from blight and insects, the season as a whole was fairly satisfactory and the total estimated outturn comes to 210,000 tons, the largest on record, being 73 per cent in excess of last year's figure, and nearly 2½ times the decennial average. Baroda and Kathiwar together claim about one half the total yield, the rest of Gujarat and the Deccan about one fifth each, and the other parts of the Presidency the remainder.

ANGLO-INDIAN AND INDO-ENGLISH TOPICS.

[From our own Correspondent.]

London, Jan. 8.

SERMONS IN SENTENCES.

"Grumbling is the child of greed. Sincerity is never self-conscious. It takes all of life to know all of love. Style is no substitute for sterling strength. Character may be sold, but it cannot be bought. The life that does no good is guilty of much harm."

The hope of this world is in the hard things we have to do. No man moves this world until he is profoundly moved himself. —"Chicago Tribune."

LORD GEORGE HAMILTON'S DISMISSAL FROM EALING.

The ex-Secretary of State for India has a poor chance of remaining a representative in the House of Commons—at least for the Ealing Division of Middlesex. Mr. George Wright, J. P., the Chairman of the Central Conservative Council for Ealing, has sent a reply to Lord George Hamilton's letter of December 18, in which his lordship stated that he was unable to comply with the request of the Council that he should support the Government on the fiscal question, and expressed doubts as to the representative character of the Conservative Committee on whose resolutions the Council had acted. Mr. Wright, in his letter, says: "By calling separate meetings of each of the three local associations, the Council therefore took the only means available for ascertaining the views of the party on the subject. They were not meetings of the Committees, as your lordship assumes, but of the whole of the members of the associations." Mr. Wright maintains that a great change has taken place in the membership of the associations since the last contested election, and adds: "The Council have fully considered the statements made by your lordship in your letter and the attitude you have adopted towards the Government, and I am requested to inform you that they felt they had no other alternative but to unanimously pass the following resolution: 'That the Central Conservative Council decide not to support Lord George Hamilton at the next election.'" There is no room for even the shadow of independence in the Conservative Party, and very little in any English political party. Slight as the difference may be, the Liberals are more tolerant of independence than are the Conservatives. But, Party Government, at its best, is only a makeshift, and too often only a very poor makeshift.

LORD CURZON AS AN "ASIATIC GENTLEMAN."

A Mr. Alexander Ular, who has not yet attained the dignity and importance which attaches to a position in the pages of "Who's Who", and of whom I can, therefore, say nothing but that he is a mere name to most people, associates Lord Curzon's name with some very disagreeable actions. In one of our monthly reviews, Mr. Ular pays Lord Curzon a very dubious compliment, which is like a two-edged sword: it cuts both ways. It covers Lord Curzon with a certain kind of infamy, while, at the same time, it fixes on the Asiatic people a policy which the present Viceroy of India is said to have adopted. Mr. Ular congratulates Lord Curzon on turning his back on straightforward and honourable courses, and in adopting "Asiatic methods", without which, he goes on to assert, "no Asiatic policy is possible." What are these Asiatic methods? They stand recorded thus: Secret missions, Secret arrangements, Secret negotiations, Shameless denials, Secret corruption, Shameless bluff. Because Lord Curzon has appropriated to himself all these methods, and has exhibited them in his policy, he is "the most Asiatic gentleman who has ever been entrusted with the Government of England's Asiatic Empire." This is, indeed, high praise. It is to be hoped that the shameless bluffer, the shameless denier, the secret corrupter, the secret negotiator, will be proud of his champion, who is the most thorough of champions. Lord Curzon, we are told, has the courage deliberately to oppose the moral tendencies which reign in these times in Europe, and to employ against the lawful expansion of Russian influence in Asia the very means that have secured to Russia her brilliant successes. He is putting forward politician designs, the publication of which can do no harm, in order to have a free hand with respect to enterprises that can only succeed in perfect secrecy. In Asia, the fact accomplishes is the sole diplomatic weapon of any value, and all the refinements of Oriental method consist merely in the art of bringing about facts accomplished without giving the adversary any opportunity of retaliation." The Tzar had nearly become a Buddhist Emperor, and the Grand Lama a Russian Pope, when Lord Curzon conceived the idea of sweeping away at one stroke the "fantastic ascendancy which Russia has been exercising for years all over the Buddhist world." Hence the British expedition to Tibet.

One hardly knows whether one is to take Mr. Ular seriously. If these remarks be intended for satire, they are very clumsy satire. If they are to be regarded as a serious contribution to an estimate of Lord Curzon's policy and character, then I hardly know what to say. For, there rise in my mind some incidents which, so far as is known, bear some likeness to the description given. But, why, when Machiavelli was a European of the Middle Ages, Prince Bismarck the foremost statesman of the Nineteenth Century, and Mr. Chamberlain a prominent person in the Twentieth Century, should Mr. Ular class the methods he so frankly describes, as Asiatic methods?

MORE MILITARY EXPENDITURE FOR THE PATIENT ASS, INDIA.

One would think, with the heavy additional annual military expenditure incurred for the increased pay of the British soldier, an end would have been reached in this particular mode of spending India's resources. Not so, however, thinks General Sir Edwin Collean, recently Military Member of the Viceroy's Council. In a long letter, in large type, which appeared in "The Times" of yesterday, this ex-Anglo-Indian military discourses on the military policy of India after having favoured the readers of the paper with his views on the

policy of India in other respects. He is all for the extension of railways in Southern Persia and Afghanistan, apparently at the expense of the Indian people. That these people are already frightfully over-taxed, the General has, it would seem, no conception, but talks of the land as though its resources were boundless and its people already in want of spheres in which to throw away their equally boundless wealth. He believes the Indian field army could proceed at short notice in any direction, and that "the example of the despatch of the force to China is a sufficient evidence of what can be done to reap imperial interests in the far East." Having accomplished this, it might be supposed that a rest-and-a-thankful policy ought now to be adopted. Nothing of the kind, says Sir Edwin Collean. "let us," he exclaims, "increase our military power in India—by methods well known to experts—and our ability to ship and transport large bodies of troops, so that India may be able to furnish even greater help to imperial interests in the far East or in any other direction." The desired ability to ship and transport large bodies of troops can only be secured at very considerable expense, and all that expense, as a matter of course, will have to be borne by India. This fresh outcry for more and more military expenditure is wholly unpardonable. Things military are well enough on as they are. Indeed, they are too well off. Indian military expenditure is greater than it need be, and the troops in India are far greater in number than the Empire requires. Sir Edwin Collean, in effect, admits this, for, in the same article, he glaringly remarks: "India—the true base of all military operations in the Far East."

Australia and India could hold our share of the Eastern world against all comers. If this be so, why should not the Anglo-Indian authorities be content when they know they are well off. Should the Indian newspapers remain quiescent, they may, soon, awake to the discomfiture of finding a further military charge irrevocably fixed upon their country. In connection with this article by Sir Edwin Collean, the "St. James's Gazette" makes an amusing blunder. It has a special column, headed "Men and Women." In this column yesterday, it began one of its paragraphs as follows: "Sir Horace Tozer, who is pleading for a 'policy for India' in 'The Times' of to-day, is a son of Greater Britain." "with much more or less interesting gossip concerning the Tozers of three generations," including a small host of grandchildren. Why Sir Edwin Collean should be robbed of the fame he has earned because Sir Horace Tozer was the author of a short letter in the same paper on Pacific Cables, is not, at first sight, very clear. The paragraphist who mixed the letters and their writers—letters appearing on different and widely-separated pages—must have been in a very confused state of mind to have blundered so egregiously.

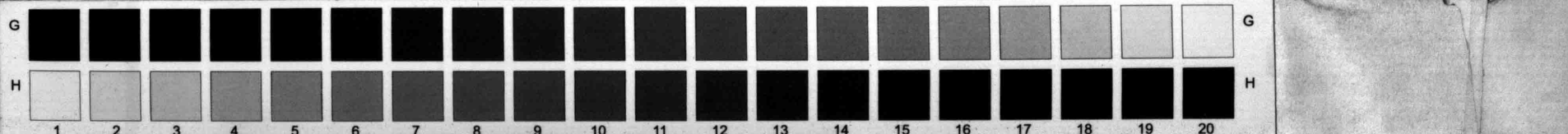
"OF COURSE," AT THE EXPENSE OF INDIA.

The foregoing paragraph was written last night; this morning, on opening the early papers, I find a further example of how India is regarded. Canadian soldiers find soldiering in their own country very dull work; soldiering in India is often lively and exciting. What, therefore, more reasonable than that Canadian regiments should be sent where a little excitement will add a spice to their lives? So, the new English War Lord, as careless and as unconcerned where Indian tax-paying interests come in as his predecessor, the new Secretary of State for India, in pressing this pleasant change upon India, coolly says: "Of course the regiment would be sent at the expense of India, which bears the cost of maintaining the British regiments there." I ask you to find space for the whole paragraph, which is as follows:

"An interesting statement by Sir Frederick Borden, Canadian Minister of Militia, regarding the proposal to send a Canadian regiment to India, is published by the Toronto 'Globe.' Sir Frederick, who was interviewed on his return from England, thus explained the position: 'A suggestion to that effect was made to me by Mr. Arnold-Forster, the Secretary of State for War, when I called upon him. Mr. Forster thought military service in Canada was rather dull and uninteresting, and, if the suggestion were thought well of, Canada might like to have the privilege of doing something of the kind. Of course the regiment would be sent at the expense of India, which bears the cost of maintaining the British Regiments stationed there. Such a move would give an opportunity to ambitious young Canadians who desire to see service abroad. It would enable some of our young officers and men who are fond of soldiering to get experience, and there is no better country in the world than India for that. Of course, it would be absolutely voluntary on their part. The great difficulty would be what to do with them when they returned. I told the Secretary for War that I would discuss the matter with my colleagues. That is all there is to say about it. At present the matter is absolutely up in the air.' How heartily will the never-complaining and always-accepting Indians welcome this possible addition to the pleasantly-easy military burdens they now bear! This will make life more joyous for a thousand Canadian militia men, and for what other purpose does India form part of the British Empire but to give satisfaction to non-Indians residing in that Empire?"

"THE CLAIMS OF INDIA."

A good enough leading article, so far as leading articles on India in the London morning press are concerned, appeared in the "Daily News" two days ago. Its heading I have claimed for the description of this paragraph. Internal evidence seems to indicate its author to be Mr. Herbert Paul, an accomplished journalist and litterateur who for a short while sat in the House of Commons as Liberal Member for Edinburgh. There is a reference to the Resolution which was passed in Parliament ten years ago concerning simultaneous examinations—a historic fact which only one leader writer for London Liberal journals is likely to have had in mind. The resolutions passed during the last Session of the National Congress provide the text for the article. Needless to say, all the resolutions are heartily supported. The writer comments on the fact that no Indian has ever yet been made a member of an Executive Council. That, he proceeds to say, "is a curious and significant fact concerning British rule in India. Wherever ability and character have had anything like a chance, Indians have gone far. They have risen, for example, to the Bench of the High Court, and, in the



teeth of the most formidable obstacles, some of them have reached the rank of Commissioner in the Indian Civil Service. But in nearly half a century of direct Government of India by the British Crown, not one Indian has ever been admitted to the charmed circle of an Executive Council. Reference, too, is made to the Secretariat Bill, concerning which it is remarked that, in 1897, the law of sedition in India was so amended as to bring it in line with the English law—a law against which Mill, for example, protested as being unreasonably severe. But, it is added, there is this important difference. In England the administration of the law is regulated by public opinion, and is modified by trial by jury consisting of the fellow-countrymen of the accused. In India, the reverse is the case, and the Government has now introduced a Bill which is to put the unauthorised publication of political news upon the same footing with the sale of naval and military secrets. To this amazing measure we shall refer on another occasion. Meantime, it may be hoped that the protest of the Congress will be heeded by the Government.

In spite of this generally satisfactory tone of the article, it is singularly poor and thin for a "Daily News" leader. No good will be done in England on India's behalf by such common places as make up the article. A trumpet-blast is needed, and in the "Daily News" will not give India a trumpet-blast, it will not do India much good.

A SLAVE STATE IN BRITISH TERRITORY.

The satire is perfect. Four years ago the British people engaged in war with President Kruger and the Boers of the Transvaal to procure the freedom to vote for the British residents in that country. Now, nearly two years after Peace has been proclaimed, those British residents in South Africa are leaving the country as rapidly as they can: nobody cares—not even themselves—for the franchise. The white labourers of the mining regions, the men who were to have the right and privilege to vote, are to be replaced by imported Chinese, who are to be held in close bondage. For, during the period of service for which they are engaged, they are, on no account, to be allowed to pass one mile from the location in which they are held virtually prisoners. This is what the war in South Africa has come to: the re-establishment of slavery. For this retrograde and inhuman purpose, several hundreds of millions of British treasure have been squandered and the British name besmirched, while the United Kingdom has slipped back in civilisation. Mr. Chamberlain, whose unbridled ambition and lack of statesmanlike foresight brought the war about, is the most sinister figure which English history has known for centuries. There was a time when Lord Beaconsfield's political cynicism was held to be a source of moral and material harm to the country. Nothing, however, in the career of the Eastern Adventurer, as Disraeli was called, compares for one moment evil consequences with the career of the Man from Birmingham. This re-enactment of slavery in the British dominions, considering what the record of the United Kingdom is in regard to human slavery, is the hall-mark of retrogression, and indicates the resurrection of some of the worst elements in our national character. Those are bad times for all who hoped that the human race was growing better, and especially that England was leading the way to a not distant triumph of good over evil when righteousness should adorn our nation and selfishness be overcome. The mad race for wealth has much to do with the present state of things.

THE MOCKERY OF CHRISTIAN MISSIONARY EFFORT—OBSERVE ENGLAND.

I imagine that Mr. Stead, if he saw the above heading would be somewhat shocked at it. Yet he is the occasion of its being written. Himself a believer in Christian mission work he has, apparently, never given a thought to the fact that in most of the qualities which go to make the character of men and women he most admires—sobriety, family affection, temperate living—the so-called "heathen" are really superior to the majority of English people. Yet, it is to Mr. Stead's smartness and enterprise that the fact is made clear of the greater need in London itself of Christian missionary work than in Calcutta, Madras, and Bombay. The "sensational" of the first number of the new paper was "A Social Inquest." The jury consisted of five hundred and fifty persons. The object of the enquiry: to ascertain how many men, women, and children visited the drink shops in a West End district of London on Sunday, from the time of opening at 12 noon, to the time of closing at night. Paddington was the first district subjected to the enquiry. Paddington is, as most people will know, bounded by Hyde Park on the South, and is regarded as a most cultured and respectable part of the Metropolis. In it is situated Bayswater, in which reside more Anglo-Indians than in any other district in London. I do not, however, suppose that a single Anglo-Indian was to be reckoned among the devotees to drink who were numbered on Sunday, December 27, 1903. These were among the startling and scandalous facts revealed:

90,000 more people in Paddington, on that Particular Sunday, visited the public houses than were to be found in all the Churches and Chapels;
3,639 more children were sent to the public houses for drink than attended religious services;
61,065 is the number of the male population in Paddington;
83,411 male visitors to the public houses were reckoned—which shows that a good many must have gone in more than once.

These are the main results. At one public house, known as the Frankfort Arms, in the Harrow Road, no fewer than 3,247 people were counted as entering: of these, 545 were women and 147 were children! Another public house, also in the Harrow Road, had 2,068 visitors, of whom 618 were women, and 152 children. There are many more in the Harrow Road which I cannot stop to count. But, bad as is the thoroughfare, it does not furnish the worst instance. In the Shirland Road, within a short distance of Sutherland Avenue, where General Sir Owen Burne, K.C.S.I., and many others like unto him reside—so near akin in London are the very good and the very bad—there were no fewer than 4,592 visitors! Of these 1,406 were women—yes, women! And, of children, there were in the morning 147, in the evening 165! These instances will, I think, suffice. When one remembers what the moral atmosphere of the public house is like,

what the nature of the conversation, what the miseries following upon the inebriation in the nurseries, what the horrors of the "home" to which the wholly or partly intoxicated man returns, it is easy to imagine what there are in London every Sunday a few houses from which itself might learn something. And, let it be remembered, that the story told in this paragraph is one story of a most respectable part of London. Was it, Mr. Stead, asks, exceptional? He answers his own question by saying that "paddington was selected because it was believed to be fairly typical. It is one of the wealthiest districts in London. It has plenty of open spaces. Of its 1,364 acres 132 are free from houses. Its death-rate is low. It is abundantly supplied with all the means of grace in the shape of municipal institutions. It has a Mayor, an alderman, and sixty councillors. It sends representatives to the County Council and the School Board, and it has its own Board of Guardians. Paddington has got Dr. Clifford, but it has not got a Free Library. It has 39 Churches and Chapels, and it has 249 public houses, of which 166 are open on Sunday. And, as the Census shows, while only 31,353 of its 143,000 inhabitants enter the House of God, no fewer than 122,175 visits were made to the public house on what used to be called the Lord's Day." It is not too much to say, as Mr. Stead says, "So far as Paddington is concerned, London, on Sunday, Worship Jacobus and not Christ." In view of this most disgraceful state of things in Christian England, and in the Metropolis of a Christian country, put it to the Christian Missionaries in all parts of India where the "Amrita Bazar Patrika" circulates, what right have they in India where the people are not drunken, are not sent to abominable cruelty to children? Surely, if the scene of most sin should be the scene of their labours, their place is in London, and not in the cities, towns, and villages of India.

THE FAITH OF HUMANITY IN INDIA'S KEEPING.

There is at least one American journalist, Mrs. Ella Wheeler Wilcox, a regular editor of "The New York American and Journalist," who considers ancient Hindu philosophy to be greater than Modern Science and the Christian religion. Christianity will not serve the needs of humanity. "The old creeds are passing away in the searchlight of Science. It is impossible for the intelligent mind to cling to the statements of Genesis after knowing the millions of years required in the formation of the diamond or the coal quarry. It is impossible for the rational and sensible mind to believe the Creator of the marvellous system of worlds, such as astronomers are now able to photograph or our wondering inspection, made it all for man alone, and that only a few thousand years ago he first created man and because of Adam's fall, unregenerate beings will go to a hell fire, about which all the billions of magnificent stars and planets will revolve forever." The world, this writer says, is waiting for some definite proof of life beyond the grave. Where is it to be found? Recently, she says, the scientific world has been obliged to confess (though only a few of its most advanced and liberal thinkers have made the confession) that many of its most astounding discoveries of the last few years were anticipated by the philosophers of India thousands of years ago—notably the radiant energy discovery and its utter transformation of old ideas and beliefs in the scientific world brings into prominence the statements made by religious devotees and masters centuries before the Christian era. Now comes another interesting coincidence for the consideration of scientific men. She then refers to Professor J. C. Bose's wonderful researches into the life of metals. "The old Hindus," she remarks, "have always declared that every visible thing was from the same source and possessed of the same life principle in greater or lesser degree or in higher or lower state of vibration." But, it is pointed out, that while Professor Bose has only recently announced his discoveries, six years ago, in 1897, a book was published in Chicago, written by Mrs. Florence Huntley, called "Harmonies of Evolution." On page 100 of this book the author says:—"When electro-magnetism is extracted from iron or steel we have devitalized mineral substance, or dead ore. The withdrawal of the life element produces the same result in each kingdom of nature, viz: devitalization or death. These material particles, divested of the controlling life element, experience a form of disintegration which we call Death." Another work by Mrs. Huntley is entitled "The Great Psychological Crime," and, in both volumes, positive statements as to the continuation of life and individuality after death are made with dignity and authority. Mrs. Wilcox, dismissing modern science as of no account and being satisfied that the demonstrated facts of the ancient Indian school holds the key to all the mysteries of a future life, puts this phrase in capital letters:—"There exists in this world to-day, and in our midst, 'men and women who know that the soul of man lives after death.'"

Addressing her own countrymen and countrywomen she concludes thus:—"Now that these two books have been published to the world it is a duty our scientific men owe humanity to read them and investigate their philosophy."

"For only through Science will the future generations be led into faith. Lay aside your egotism, abandon your 'know-it-all' attitude for a brief time, dear Scientists, and give attention to a subject of vast and eternal import."

"Help yourselves, and through yourselves, humanity, to knowledge of worlds beyond this little earth. Remember that one hundred years ago a man who said wireless telegraphy would be used by the business world, and that people would hear one another's voices across a thousand miles of space would have been met by jeers and sneers. Therefore, restrain your jeers and sneers and read the works suggested carefully. They may add to your usefulness. Investigate."

There is something more, I think, than mere journalism—the journalism written yesterday, printed to-day, forgotten tomorrow—in this article of Mrs. Wilcox. Certainly there is much to engage attention in the attitude of some Americans towards the Vedantic Philosophy and ancient Hinduism generally.

It may be interesting if I quote from *Who's Who*, for 1904, what is therein contained concerning Mrs. Wilcox. The particulars are as follows:—

"Wilcox Ella Wheeler; poet; b. (Wheeler) Johnston Centre, Wisconsin 1855; m. 1884 Robert M. Wilcox of New York. Educ. University of Wisconsin. Editorial writer and

contributor *New York Journal* and *Chicago American*. Publications: Poems and Passion; Three Women, 1898; An Ambitious Man; Everyday Thoughts in Prose and Verse; Maurine; Poems on Pleasure; Kingdom of Love and other Poems; An Erring Woman's Love; Men, Women and Emotions; the Beautiful Land of Nod; Poems of Power; the Heart of the New Thought; Address: The Bungalow, Short Beach, Conn.; the Journal, New York."

Calcutta Gazette.—Jan. 27.

The services of Mr. B. G. Geidt, Additional District and Sessions Judge 24-Parganas, are placed temporarily at the disposal of the Government of India in the Home Department.

Mr. O. P. Beachcroft, J.Magte. and Dy. Coll. 24 Parganas, is appointed to act as an Additional District and Sessions Judge, 24-Parganas.

Maulvi Aminal Islam Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Monghyr, is transferred to Chupra. Maulvi Mahamed Abdul Kadir, Dy. Magte. and Dy. Coll. Bhagalpur, is transferred to Backergunge.

Mr. H. B. Schurr, D. S. P. on leave, is posted to Shahabad.

Mr. F. Roddis, A. D. S. P. in temporary charge of the Shahabad District Police, is appointed to have charge of the Mymensingh charge of the Jessore district police.

Mr. J. D. Boylan, A. D. S. P. is posted to Champaran, and is appointed to hold charge of the police of that district, on being relieved of the charge of the Jessore district police.

Mr. W. A. Knyvet, A. D. S. P. is posted to Gaya, on being relieved of the charge of the district of police of Champaran.

Mr. W. A. Marr, Covenanted D. Coll. Patna, is vested with the powers of a Collector. Babu Mahan Lal Chatterjee, Dy. Coll. Dogra, is vested with the powers of a Collector.

Mr. R. B. Bainbridge, Dy. Coll., Birbhum, is vested with the powers of a Collector.

Babu Fakir Chunder Chatterjee, Dy. Coll. Nalail, Jessore, is vested with the powers of a Collector.

The following Assist. Mag. and Coll. are vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector:—Messrs. J. A. Hubback, C. Tindall, and F. G. Williams.

Babu Rehati Mohan Thakurta, B.L., is appointed to act as a Munsif in the district of Rangpur, to be ordinarily stationed at Nilphamari.

Lala Damodar Prasad, Munsif, Bihar, Patna, under orders of transfer to Cox's Bazar, Chittagong, is appointed to be a Munsif in the district of Jessore, to be ordinarily stationed at Jhenidah.

Babu Hemendra Lal Singh, Munsif of Nilphamari, is allowed leave for thirty-five days, under Article 271 of the Civil Service Regulations.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to invest the Deputy Magistrate, Champaran, named below, with the powers conferred by sub-section (1) of the said section:—Babus Siva Saur Singh and Babu Jyotish Chander Sen.

The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to invest Mr. A. J. Laine, Assistant Magistrate, Rampur Hat, Birbhum, with powers conferred by sub-section (1) of the said section.

Lala Degumbar Lal, Munsif Jhenidah, is vested with a powers of a Judge of a Court of Small Causes for the trial of suits cognizable by such a Court up to the value of Rs. 100, and with the functions of a District Court under section 6, sub-section (1) of Act VII of 1889, within the local limits of the Jhenidah Munsif.

The officers named below are vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the second class:—Messrs. J. A. Hubback, C. Tindall, and F. G. Williams.

Babu Kedar Nath Banerjee, Sub-Deputy Collector, Vishnupur, is appointed to be a Magistrate of Cox's Bazar in the Chittagong district. This cancels the order appointing Babu Kali Pada Chukerburty, Sub-Deputy Collector and Khas Tahsildar Kasjan Chittagong to be Khas Tahsildar of Cox's Bazar in that district.

The gentlemen named below are appointed substantively "pro tempore" to be Sub-Deputy Collectors of the fourth grade and posted to the divisions mentioned opposite their names:—Babu Nishi Kant Mukherji Chittagong Div., Bhikari Charan Das, Orissa.

They are also vested with the powers of a Magistrate of the third class.

Babu Hara Krishna Naik, substantive pro-tempore Sub-Deputy Collector, Orissa Division is posted to the Bhadrak subdivision of the Balasore district, and is vested with the powers of a Deputy Collector for the trial of rent and other suits under Act X of 1859.

Military Assistant Surgeon M. E. Mungavin Officiating Civil Surgeon of Singbhum is allowed privilege leave for one month under article 260, Civil Service Regulations.

Assistant Surgeon Abinash Chandra Bandopadhyaya is appointed to act as Civil Surgeon of Singbhum during the absence on deputation of Captain A. W. R. Cochrane, I. M. S.

Lieutenant-Colonel R. Cobb I.M.S. Civil Surgeon of Backergunge, is allowed privilege leave combined with furlough for one year seven months and twenty-five days.

THE "GAZETTE OF INDIA."

Mr. H. Maude is permitted to resign His Majesty's Indian Civil Service.

Mr. H. G. W. Herron has been permitted to resign His Majesty's Indian Civil Service.

Mr. R. P. Dewhurst, of the Indian Civil Service, United Provinces, has obtained a Degree of Honour in Urdu in the First Division and has been awarded the authorized donation of Rs. 2,000.

Mr. C. A. R. Crommelin of the Superior Revenue Establishment of State Railways, Traffic Department, is promoted from class I, grade 2, (Supernumerary) of that establishment.

REVISED VALUE-PAYABLE RATES.

The following Post Office Notice has been issued in the "Gazette of India."

Every postal article intended to be transmitted by post as a value-payable postal article shall be presented at the post office with a printed form, prescribed by the Director-General and obtainable at the post office, in which sender shall specify the sum to be remitted to himself, full in the required entries, and sign the declaration that the article is sent in execution of a bona-fide order received by him. If the article is an unregistered parcel, unregistered book packet, or newspaper

prepaid at newspaper rate of postage a fee calculated according to the schedule below on the amount specified for remittance to the sender shall be prepaid by the sender by affixing postage stamps of the value of the fee to the form presented with the article in the space provided, for this purpose. The sender of a postal article intended to be transmitted by post as value payable shall write his name and address clearly on the article itself:—

Schedule of Fees	Amount specified for remittance to sender
not exceeding Rs. 5	Rs. 5 but not exceeding Rs. 10
Rs. 10 but not exceeding Rs. 15	Rs. 15 but not exceeding Rs. 25
Rs. 25	for each complete sum of Rs. 25 and 4 annas for the remainder, provided that, if the remitted does not exceed Rs. 5, the charge for it shall be only one anna; if it does not exceed Rs. 10, the charge for it shall be only 2 annas and if it does not exceed Rs. 15, the charge for it shall be only 3 annas.

The amount to be recovered from the addressee shall be the sum specified by the sender for remittance to himself plus, in the case of registered parcels, registered letters, and registered book packets, a fee calculated as above. When this amount is recovered from the addressee, the sum for payment to the sender shall be remitted to him by means of a money order. If the addressee of a value-payable article refuses or omits to take delivery of it, the article shall be returned to the sender, who will be required to pay any charges that may be due on it, and to acknowledge receipt of the article by signing the form presented by the postman. In no circumstances will the fee prepaid in stamps, in the case of a value payable unregistered parcel, unregistered book packet, or newspaper, be refunded.

Calcutta and Mofussil.

Viceroy's Visit to Simla.—The statements published regarding Lord Curzon's probable visit to Simla prior to embarkation for Europe are, perhaps, a little premature. Not until the disposal of the Budget will the probabilities be open to discussion.

Legislative.—The Lieutenant-Governor is pleased to nominate Mr. David Bayne Horn, Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Public Works Department (Irrigation and Marine Branches), to be a Member of the Council of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal.

Accelerated Train Service.—The Bengal-Nagpur Railway Company will most likely run their trains at the accelerated speed from the 1st proximo prior to their carrying the overland mail from the month of March. It is said that the whole distance of about 725 miles between Nagpur and Calcutta, will be reached in 16 hours.

Lord Amthill as Viceroy.—Lord Amthill, while acting as Viceroy will have the whole of his present personal staff with him at Simla, with the exception of the Private Secretary. His Lordship, we understand, will leave Madras towards the end of April and proceed to Simla, where he will take over the Viceroyalty from Lord Curzon in the first week in May.

New Construction, E. I. R.—We understand that the Board of Directors have decided upon the project for the construction of the Kharua-Haper branch line, a distance of about 54 miles. It is more than probable that the order will be communicated to the Agent very shortly to proceed with the construction. Mr. L. Bowles will probably be put in charge. This officer has been appointed as Resident Engineer by the Board.

A Horrible Scene at Matiaabuz.—On the evening of Monday last Matiaabuz was the scene of an atrocious murder and great sensation. There was a "barwar" festival accompanied with "Jatra" and "Nautches" in the Matiaabuzbazar. One Jirakhan kanno and Lal Mohamed Khan, two "sarwar" coolies of the Badertolla Lower Jute Mill came there to enjoy the festival in the midst of which they heard the noise of a row close by a "toddy" shop and hurried to the place where to their surprise they saw the "kitmatghar" of their own Sahib being beaten by the "toddy" seller, one Bhika Pasee. The Sirdars thereupon interfered on behalf of the "kitmatghar" when the "toddy" seller enraged at this interference rushed into his room, came out with a sharp "toddy" tapping knife and with one tremendous blow severed the head of Jirakhan from his body and dealt two or three severe blows to Lal Mohamed thereby causing grievous hurt. On information to the local Police, they hastened to the spot, removed the wounded man to the Alipore Hospital and sent the dead body to the morgue for postmortem examination. The accused was then and there arrested and will shortly be placed on his trial.

AN EDITOR IN DIFFICULTY.

At the High Court yesterday, before Mr. Justice Stephen, Babu Dasaratni Sanyal appeared in support of a rule, obtained on behalf of Mouli Rowshan Ali Chowdhury, Editor of a vernacular newspaper called "Kohinoor" and a contributor to some other newspapers, who had been convicted under section 107 Cr. P. Code as a Deputy Magistrate of Gooland and was directed to execute a bond for Rs. 200 with one surety for Rs. 100 to keep the peace for one year or in default to suffer simple imprisonment for that time—calling upon the District Magistrate of Faridpur to show cause why the order against the petitioner should not be set aside.

The case for the prosecution was shortly as follows: One day the petitioner went to the local post office and picked up a quarrel with the Post Office clerk. When he was asked to go out from the office the petitioner refused to do so. The clerk was then obliged to order the petitioner to be turned out. Thereafter the petitioner left the office, abusing and criminally intimidating the clerk. Upon those facts the petitioner was bound down as stated above. Against this order of the Deputy Magistrate the District Magistrate was moved, who refused to interfere.

His Lordship in delivering judgment dealt with the whole facts of the case, which had already appeared and in setting aside the order remarked that the proceedings under section 107 should be taken in a judicial manner.

TELEGRAMS.

REUTER'S TELEGRAMS

London, Jan. 22.
The issue of the first instalment of £10,000,000 of the £30,000,000 Transvaal War contribution loan, which the Rand magnates undertook to meet, has been postponed indefinitely owing to the conditions of the money market and the situation in the Rand. Sir John Anderson has been appointed Governor of the Straits Settlements.

Reuter wires from Seoul that the Korean Government has declared its neutrality in the event of war, which the English Minister approves.

Reuter wiring from Tokio says it is believed that the declaration of neutrality is the result of a Russian suggestion which was conveyed by the Korean Courtier after a visit to St. Petersburg and a subsequent interview with Admiral Alexieff.

Mr. Austin Chamberlain speaking at Carpenters Hall said there were signs of somewhat less prosperous years coming. The revenue returns indicated that the budget anticipation was unrealistic, and there had also been unanticipated expenditure. He feared he would be unable to propose any remissions of taxation in the coming sessions. The time had come for us to husband our resources and restore the country's credit.

Colonel Fairholme, British Military Attaché at Vienna, has been appointed a member of the Commission to reorganise the Macedonian Gendarmerie.

London, Jan. 23.
The Inspector-General of Recruiting, commenting upon national physique, says the number of men medically rejected continues to be very large, and should be a subject of anxiety.

A protracted Cabinet Council was held today in London.

The American Minister at Seoul has cabled to Washington that there are considerable disturbances throughout Korea, and the Japanese have been attacked in many places. Major-General Iechi has arrived at Seoul, and has been appointed Military Attaché. It is believed there that the appointment has been made in view of his directing any Japanese military measures to restore order.

At a meeting of the London City and Midland Bank, the Chairman stated that during the past year the Bank of Russia had begun increasing the War Reserve. It amounted to 78 millions in 1901, and was subsequently increased to 88 millions, while in the middle of September it was 92 millions.

The newspapers at Nuenwang state that six thousand Russian troops entered the city on Tuesday.

London, Jan. 24.
Signor Silvestrelli, the Italian Minister at Athens, has been appointed Ambassador at Manila. Signor Silvestrelli in a recent official report disparaged Greece, alleging that the inhabitants were mostly slaves and Albanians. This caused the greatest indignation in Greece. It is understood that Mr. Austin Chamberlain intended to use the ten million war contribution to reduce the war treasury bills now due, and hence his announcement on the subject of a non remission of taxation.

Reuter wires from Sofia that news from the frontier states that the Turks are rapidly concentrating numerous troops on the Bulgarian frontier. The Turkish representative has refused for the last few days to revise the passports of Bulgarians going to Turkey.

A disastrous hurricane has taken place at Levuka in the Fiji Islands. Many lives were lost, and there was vast damage to property and shipping. Suva suffered less severely.

The town of Dalesland in Norway has been almost completely destroyed by fire, and the population of twelve thousand are homeless. Owing to the severity of weather, their condition is terrible. The fishing steamers and smacks in the harbour were also destroyed. A German cruiser has been ordered to proceed there and the Kaiser has sent an Alce-de-camp to the spot.

News from Damaraland continues grave. Several attempts to relieve Okavandja have been repulsed with heavy loss. Five settlers with their wives and children have been murdered. Five bones of Hottentots are marching on windhoek.

London, Jan. 25.
Several officers mentioned in the telegram of the 30th December as having been killed at Bengue in West Africa, 37 of the escort number 32 were killed. The punitive force numbers 500 and heavy fighting is expected.

Reuter wires from Fort Ataturk that all the residents there and at Dany have been ordered to submit their horses to the authorities for appraisement. Military activity has disorganised passenger and goods traffic on the Manchurian railway.

Another cabinet meeting took place today which lasted nearly four hours.

The Kaiser has sent 500 sterling for the relief of the sufferers at Aalsund.

Financier Freeman Cohen, one of the guarantors of the first instalment of the Transvaal Loan mentioned on the 22nd instant, has died suddenly at Johannesburg, and it is believed, owing to the strain of the present acute situation.

London, Jan. 26.
One hundred and seventy-five miners have been entombed by an explosion at Harwick Pennsylvania. Their rescue is regarded as hopeless.

Reuter wiring from Tokio says the new Korean Cabinet is favourable to Japan.

Reuter telegraphing from Peking states that the senior American student interpreters at Peking are going to Mukden, Dainy and Antung as Vice-Consuls.

The Daily Mail says, the first Reserves at St. Petersburg and 86,000 of the Kharkoff Kieff and Odessa Divisions have been warned to hold themselves in readiness.

The Daily News states the result of the prolonged Cabinet meetings is that the resignations of Lord Lansdowne and Lordonberry and Mr. Gerald Balfour are imminent as a protest against Mr. Balfour endorsing Chamberlain's fiscal policy to generally displace his own. The Daily News statement regarding the imminent resignations in the Cabinet is declared to be untrue.

Whitaker Wright was sentenced to seven years penal servitude.

It is reported that Freeman Cohen, who was in ill-health, committed suicide with a razor.



THE DISMEMBERMENT QUESTION.

OPINION OF THE HIGH COURT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.
(June 30, 1896.)

2. In reply I am to say that the Judges apprehend that what is required of them is an expression of their opinion as to how the proposed change, if carried out would affect the administration of civil and criminal justice. The Judges can only discuss the matter on broad general grounds.

3. At first sight the proposal seems to the Judges to be a step in the wrong direction. To transfer districts which ever since the East India Company assumed the Dewani have formed a part of the "Regulation" territory to a local Government which largely partakes of a non-regulation character can not but appear in the light of a retrograde movement. And it is not surprising, therefore, that the Judges have learnt from the District Judges of the Districts comprising the Chittagong Division who were consulted on the subject, that the proposal has aroused considerable apprehension in the minds of those who are not immediately concerned. It is on this account the more necessary to consider whether this feeling of distrust rests on any solid basis.

4. In its judicial aspect, to which the Judges desired to confine themselves the question divides itself into two branches:

- (a) the law to be administered.
- (b) the judicial agency.

In considering the matter the Judges have the experience of Sylhet to guide them. The District of Sylhet, as known to the Government of Bengal formed a part of the regulation province of Bengal till 1874 when it was placed under the C.C. of Assam.

5. Taking then the first branch of the question—the law to be administered—it might be presumed that all Regulations and Acts of Legislature that may be in force in the district and division (as the case may be) at the time of its transfer to Assam would continue to remain in force. But apparently this course was not followed on the transfer of the district of Sylhet to the province of Assam. Many Regulations and Acts which up to that time had been in force in Sylhet ceased to have operation in that district after its transfer to Assam. And many acts which have been passed since and are now in operation in the regulation districts of Bengal have not been extended to Sylhet. It seems to the Judges therefore, that the apprehension referred to is well grounded, that the district or districts now in question might suffer if withdrawn from the operation of Acts now in force or to be passed in future and if subjected to Legislative regulation made in the interest of more backward districts.

To take an example. The Bengal Tenancy Act VIII of 1885 has not been extended to Sylhet although the latter was one of the oldest of the districts in Bengal. That Act is now in force in the districts of Chittagong, Noakhali and Tipperah, the three districts within the Chittagong division and no doubt many valuable rights have sprung up under it. It would therefore certainly be a grievance were the Act to be repealed and the old law of landlord and tenant to be reintroduced into those districts. Moreover, the very change in the laws in force necessitated and made possible by the proposed transfer is in itself a serious grievance. Besides the uncertainty which such a change is liable to introduce into questions of title, it takes some time for even the legal profession to become acquainted with and accustomed to the change.

6. If again the districts in question be transferred to the Assam Government the tendency will be for the laws declared to be in force therein, whatever they may be, to become stereotyped. There being no local Legislative Council in Assam there will be no opportunity of amending the laws and keeping it in conformity with the requirements and with the progress of the community. It is scarcely to be expected that the Legislative Council of Bengal will consider the Legislative needs of Assam and the Government of Assam may hesitate to adopt all the legislation that is carried out for the lower provinces of Bengal.

7. It seems to the Judges, therefore, that a transfer of the Chittagong District and the Chittagong Division to the Government of Assam as at present constituted would not fail to be a retrograde and mischievous step in regard to the Legislative needs of the district and districts transferred; and from the judicial point of view they think that any such transfer is to be deprecated. There is probably no Local Government which comprises so many heterogeneous element as that of Assam. To say nothing of the British interests in tea, coal, railways and other industries, the province of Assam at present contains a more varied native population than probably any other Province in India. To legislate separately for each of its various tribes and peoples is impossible, while any attempt to prescribe one uniform law for the whole means that the needs and requirements of the more advanced portion of the community must be sacrificed to the exigencies of the more backward tribes.

8. In these circumstances I am to say that the Judges are of opinion that the progress of the District or Division which it is proposed to transfer to Assam would be seriously jeopardized, if indeed not altogether retarded in the development of its legislative needs by the proposed transfer.

9. As regards the second branch of the question—the judicial agency—it may perhaps be presumed with reference to civil business that as in Sylhet the existing judicial Agency would be maintained in the three districts in question, that is to say, those districts would continue to be officered by District and Sessions Judges, Subordinate Judges and Munsiffs being members of the judicial branches of the services. In Sylhet, these officers are, as it were, borrowed from the Province of Bengal, and after a certain period of service under the Government of Assam they revert to Bengal. If this system is to apply to the Districts proposed to be transferred, Judges fear that they would suffer from the transfer as the Province of Bengal will not willingly lend its best and most experienced officers and the Civil Judicial Agencies would thus tend to deteriorate.

10. Moreover the salaries of the higher appointments of Assam being less than those in the lower Provinces, those appointments are as a rule held by comparatively junior officers. For instance, a second grade Judge only is allowed for the district of Sylhet, one of the heaviest Judgeships under the High Court; and ordinarily therefore as soon as the Judge has earned his promotion to the first grade he has to be retransferred to Bengal. In illustration of this argument, the Judges have observed that in succession to Mr. Greaves, who though a senior officer, at his own request, remained as Judge of Sylhet on the lower Grade of salary, a Deputy Commissioner has been appointed to be Judge who has little experience to civil business.

11. On the other hand, if it is proposed to create a separate establishment for service in the extended Province of Assam, it is probable that the proportion of higher appointments will be smaller than in Bengal and the standard of efficiency will therefore be lower.

12. As regards the Criminal Judicial Agency I am to say that the Judges entirely agree with the following remarks made by the District Judge of Sylhet on the subject:—"Military men are sometimes employed as Assistant Commissioners in Sylhet. These gentlemen when they commence their work are sometimes ignorant of law and procedure. I have known serious injustice result from this ignorance. Assistant Magistrates who served in Bengal attained law courts and learned something of procedure before they come to India. Military men have no such experience. I think it is a great mistake to hastily entrust them with the powers of Magistrates. I see no reason to think them less able or careful than others, but they often show defects arising from want of experience."

13. It will be observed that Mr. Greaves' remarks apply only to Assistant Commissioners; but these gentlemen in time rise to be Deputy Commissioners and Commissioners; and as District Magistrates and Commissioners the want of judicial training and experience must necessarily handicap them in the discharge of their judicial functions. The qualifications necessary for a smart frontier officer are not always those required for the patient administration of the law in more settled districts; and, on the contrary, those very qualifications—rapidity of action, quickness of decision and an impatience of forms and procedure rather stand in the way of his becoming a sound judicial officer.

14. For the above reason the Judges are inclined to anticipate that also on the ground of the Judicial Agency to be employed the districts in question would suffer, if transferred to Assam.

15. In conclusion I am to say that Judges have no objection to offer to the transfer of the Chittagong Hill Tracts, and similar wild tracts of country to the Government of Assam, but they are of opinion that the old permanently settled districts of Chittagong, Noakhali and Tipperah should not be served from the Lower Provinces of Bengal.

SIR HENRY COTTON'S MINUTE.

NOTE BY THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER OF ASSAM ON THE PROPOSED TRANSFER OF THE CHITTAGONG DIVISION FROM BENGAL TO ASSAM.

I regret to say that I do not find myself in a position to support the recommendations of my predecessor contained in his letter of the 25th November, 1896 to the Government of India, regarding the transfer of the Chittagong Division from Bengal to Assam.

2. Sir William Ward stated that he considered "the proposal to transfer the Chittagong Division to be especially desirable as with the enlargement of the Province of Assam, it will be possible to take a substantial step towards the creation of separate Services for the Province. In different branches of the General Administration in substitution for the present very unsatisfactory system of borrowing officers temporarily from Bengal." It is on this point, in particular, that I am at variance with my predecessor's opinion. I do not think it possible and, if possible, I do not think it would be desirable, to establish a self-contained Service for Assam. This remark has special reference to the Indian Civil Service, but it is equally applicable to the Medical and Police Services. Even with Chittagong Division thrown in, Assam would be too small a Province to support a self-contained Service. It would be too small even if the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh were added. There would always be an insufficiency of higher posts in proportion to the cadre of the Province. The lot of Indian civilians who were destined to pass their whole service in the swamps of Eastern Bengal or in the remote districts of Assam proper would be highly invidious and calculated to create a feeling of discontent while their chance of obtaining high prizes permanently posted in a part of India which would present very few attractions, where the cost of living is great and the climate generally speaking is more unfavourable than usual to European constitution. I can see nothing in the conditions of their service which would in any degree compensate them for these drawbacks or place their Indian career upon a level with that of civilians in other provinces.

3. On the other hand, I deem it my duty to submit that the present arrangement under which the Service is recruited from Bengal does not labour under these disadvantages, and I am unable to agree with Sir William Ward in describing it as an unsatisfactory system. I consider that it has worked for many years with remarkable success. Bengal has received back from Assam many of its ablest officers, and it is a source of continued encouragement to Assam civilians to know that, in consequence of their temporary delegation to that Province, they do not imperil their chances of rising to the highest offices in Bengal. A partial difficulty does, no doubt, arise in connection with the fact that Bengal civilians who are in charge of districts in Assam draw a lower salary than is drawn by district officers in Bengal, but this difficulty is one which cannot be satisfactorily met by the creation of a separate Service for Assam. I am submitting a representation to the Government of India on this subject, and I refer to it here only to say that the proposals contained therein are based on the distinct understanding that he present arrangements for the recruitment of Assam civilians from Bengal will remain substantially unaltered. Those arrangements would, however, be very difficult to work satisfactorily if the area of the Assam Administration were

enlarged, and, from whatever point of view we may regard it, it appears to me that in a Province enlarged on the lines sketched out in the somewhat ambitious scheme of Sir William Ward the problem of recruitment would prove a very serious block in the way of its administration.

4. I proceed now to consider the question of the transfer of the Chittagong Division to Assam on its own merits, and here, again, I regret to say that I am unable to accept the conclusions of my predecessor. It is, I think, an idle contention to affirm that the Administration of Assam is conducted on as advanced lines as the Government of Bengal. In one respect only do I find that Assam is in advance of Bengal, and that is in regard to the large number of Europeans who are employed in the Province on tea cultivation and in other industries. This large European population has established a public opinion of its own, which exercises the greatest influence on the departments affected by it. The tea interest is a power in Assam which is without a parallel in any other part of India. But in all other respects, in all departments in which the tea interest is not dominant it would be mere affectation to declare that the progress in Assam is on a level with that attained in Bengal. In comparison with Bengal there has been an extraordinarily slow rate of progress in this Province in population, cultivation, wealth and education. It is true that the constitutional privileges enjoyed by the people in Bengal are to a large extent unknown in Assam. I do not think it necessary to dwell at length on this point, but I will give an indication of what I mean. The Chief Commissioner in Assam exercises the functions of the Bengal Board of Revenue as well as those of Lieutenant-Governor. The members of the Board of Revenue are the most experienced civilians in Bengal and are trained to deal with the revenue problems it devolves on them to decide. They are moreover, assisted in the disposal of cases by learned Counsel and it frequently happens that parties interested in appeals before the Board of Revenue are represented by the Hon'ble Advocate-General and the ablest lawyers in Calcutta. This representation by Counsel is a constitutional privilege which is much appreciated in Bengal. It is not too much to say that the landed interest in Bengal reposes very complete confidence in the decisions of the Board of Revenue. But how different is the state of things in Assam? It can rarely happen that the Chief Commissioner will be an expert in Bengal revenue matters of the same experience as a member of the Board of Revenue. His headquarters are at Shillong, an inaccessible spot, where there are no lawyers or pleaders or no Bar of any sort. He ordinarily decides cases in camera upon the report of the local officers, and it remains to add that, as he exercises the powers of the Board, and is at the same time the head of the Local Government, there can be no further appeal from his decision, as there is in Bengal from the Board to the Lieutenant-Governor. The contrast in the procedure in the two provinces is sufficiently striking. If the Chittagong Division is transferred from Bengal to Assam, the people of that division would be subject to the changes I have described. It is a matter of notoriety that they regard the prospect with apprehension, and I am at a loss to conceive how their objections in such a matter can be characterised as a mere sentimental grievance.

5. It is not the case that Local Self-Government in Assam is on the same footing as it is in Bengal. There is no such thing as a District Fund in Assam and the Chief Commissioner is accustomed to exercise interference in matters of detail to an extent which is quite unknown in the older province. Municipal administration in Assam proceeds much on the same lines as it did in Bengal a generation ago, and, though I am bound to say it is very efficient, this is due primarily to the small size of the municipalities and to the active part taken in their management by Government officials and to the liberal money grant made by Government in nearly all cases.

6. I do not think Sir William Ward has allowed sufficient weight to the consideration that if Chittagong is transferred to Assam it will be disenfranchised in respect of its representation in the Bengal Council. The estimate of the value of such representation will vary according to the different views which may be held on the subject of an elective council, but to me at least it appears that the deprivation of the privilege of being represented in Council is a very serious and just cause for complaint on the part of the Chittagong public. It is no reply to suggest that Assam should be represented on the Governor-General's Council: I am not aware that this is desired by the people of Assam or would benefit Chittagong in any way, while it is quite certain that the prospect of disenfranchisement in Bengal has excited among the educated classes, who alone are directly interested in the question, the liveliest feeling of dissatisfaction.

7. It is desirable to dwell for a moment on the proposed transfer in its judicial aspect. For the reasons given by the High Court, I agree with the Hon'ble Judges that in the event of amalgamation the civil judicial agency in Chittagong would inevitably tend to deteriorate. I observe also that Sir William Ward's scheme contemplates the appointment of a separate Judicial Commissioner for Assam, and the consequent exclusion of the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the High Court. This certainly appears to me to be a possible contingency if the amalgamation is effected but it is needless to point out that, if this change does take place, it would contravene the principle to which Sir William Ward justly attaches the highest importance when he assures the Government of India that "the laws and general system of administration in existence in the Chittagong Division would, as a matter of course, be accepted and continued

by the Chief Commissioner." If the people of the Chittagong Division were to lose the right of appeal to, and the benefit of the supervision which is now so ably exercised over the Province of Bengal by, both the Board of Revenue and the High Court of Judicature in Calcutta, it is not too much to say that this, combined with the loss of independent legal advice, which the exclusion of these jurisdictions carries with it would involve a complete modification of the system of administration in the division so far as the appellate and controlling authorities are concerned, and could only be described in the language used by the High Court in their letter to the Government of India as a "retrograde and mischievous" departure.

8. For my part, I am convinced that the Division of Chittagong would not gain in any respect by being transferred to Assam. It is impossible to conceive that any civilised portion of Bengal would gain by being detached from the advanced province to which it belongs and attached to a comparatively backward province. If the Chittagong Division is not at present as advanced as the Bengal districts which are in the immediate neighbourhood of the metropolis, it is at least governed by the same laws, administered by the same officers, and forms part and parcel of the same Government; it is continually being levelled up to a higher standard; but if it were transferred to Assam the tendency would be to level it down to the lower standard of that province. This is the conviction which animates the educated classes of Chittagong in their objections to the proposal: it is a sentiment based upon a solid and reasonable basis, and cannot, I think, be ignored.

9. It is as emphatically true of Chittagong as of any other part of Bengal, that its capital is Calcutta. The inhabitants of the division look to Calcutta for their leadership and guidance. They are educated there: the great mass of students in the Calcutta Madrasah will be found to have come from Chittagong; the Chittagong sailors will be found to be thronging the Calcutta port; the largest zemindars of the Chittagong Division, among whom I may enumerate H. H. the Maharaja of Hill Tippera, Maharaja Durga Charan Law, C. I. E. Babu Ashutosh Nath Roy (whose is an estate now under the Court of Wards), the Rajas of Paikpara, and the proprietor of the Courjan estate, either reside in Calcutta or are represented in that city by their agents. Chittagong itself is a district which has been under the Government of Bengal since 1760, and Tippera and Noakhali are merely offshoots from the parent district. The history of Chittagong is inseparably wrapped up with that of the Bengal Government. Bengal methods of administration pervade every portion of the division. The distance of these districts from Calcutta has now been annihilated by the railway.

10. The Government of Bengal is in the most favourable condition for retaining the administration of this division in its own hands. It is not seriously contended that the separation of Chittagong from Bengal will materially lighten the burden of Government which now rests on the Lieutenant-Governor's shoulders. Bengal is a large province with a well-lubricated system of efficient administrative machinery, by means of which the wheels of the administration are kept in motion in a steady groove. The Government of the Chief Commissioner of Assam is of a much more personal character than that of the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal, and he does not enjoy the advantage of having the Judges of the High Court, the Members of the Board of Revenue, the Members of a Legislative Council, the legal advisers of the Crown and experienced Commissioners and Secretaries and Heads of Departments always available to offer him assistance and advice. It is an accidental circumstance that I have been myself Collector of Chittagong, and have also officiated as Commissioner of the Division, and am personally familiar with the various burning questions of settlement, regarding which huge files and many printed volumes are piled up in the offices of the Bengal Secretariat and Board of Revenue. But it is not at all probable that my successors will share my previous Chittagong experience, and although the expression is a strong one I can clearly foresee that both they and the people of Chittagong will rue the day if the division is transferred as I hope may never be the case, from Bengal to Assam. The effect of the transfer would be to dislocate and disturb the existing order of things. Chittagong is homogeneous with Bengal; it is not homogeneous with Assam but differs from it and from the form of administration prevailing in Assam in almost every respect. It is better on all grounds that Bengal districts should remain with Bengal; and even from the point of view of accessibility, I am constrained to point out that with the present railway system Calcutta is far more accessible to the inhabitants of the Chittagong Division than the headquarters of the Assam Administration is or is likely to be. For all practical purposes, the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal is nearer to Chittagong than the Chief Commissioner of Assam. Distances in Assam are very great and it will be long ere they are bridged, as they are in Bengal by an effective system of communications; and looking to the fact that when the Chief Commissioner is not at his headquarters he is always on a protracted tour which lasts for three or four months of the year, and leads him to places many days, and sometimes even weeks, from Shillong by post. I do not think it can be said, all other considerations apart, that his relations with the Chittagong Division could ever be so close and sustained as it is essential they should be for purposes of efficient administration.

11. I scout the idea of the transfer of the districts of Dacca and Mymensingh to Assam.

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NOTHING is more distressing than to see help less little infant suffering with a cough and to be fearful of using a remedy which may contain some harmful ingredient. The makers of Chamberlain's Cough Remedy positively guarantee this preparation does not contain opium in any form or any other harmful substance. Mothers may confidently give this remedy to their little ones. It gives prompt relief and is perfectly safe. It cures a cough quickly.

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If unable to obtain locally, this medicine will be forwarded by Smith, Stanistreet and Co. Calcutta on receipt of an order. Wholesale agents—B. K. Paul and Co., Abdoool Rahman and Abdoool Kareem Calcutta.

Chamberlain's Cough Remedy

LOOSENS the cough, relieves the lungs and opens the secretions. It counteracts tendency of a bad cold to result in pneumonia. It is unequalled for bad cold.

The time to cure it is when it is merely a "bad cold." Chamberlain's Cough Remedy is highly recommended by the leading physicians for this malady. It always cures, and cures quickly.

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Imaginary Ailments

THERE are many who have pains in the back and imagine that their kidneys are affected, while the real trouble is a rheumatism of the muscles, or, at worst, lumbago, that can be cured by a few applications of Chamberlain's Pain Balm, or by damping a piece of flannel with Pain Balm and binding it on over the affected parts.

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The proposal, if it were made public, would excite a storm of protest, and I imagine that the Government of Bengal would be as strongly opposed to this suggestion as I am myself. I have only to add that the enormous expenditure involved in Sir William Ward's proposals conveys, in my opinion, the strongest condemnation of them. I do not intend to follow him in discussing the financial effects of the proposed transfer, because, as will be seen, I am opposed to the transfer and trust it will not be carried out. But in the event of the Government of India finally deciding to sanction the transfer, I should be prepared to go fully into the question; I will only say at present that I think considerable additional expenditure would be necessary, although probably on a smaller scale than that suggested by my predecessor.

12. In conclusion, I may say that I am willing to accept the transfer of the South Lushai Hills to Assam, and think that this can be arranged without the transfer of any other portion of territory. I have separately addressed the Government of India in the Foreign Department on this point, after considering the recommendations of the Conference which was recently convened at Lungleh to report on this and other questions connected with the administration of the Lushai Hills.

(Sd.) H. J. S. COTTON,

Chief Commissioner of Assam.

The 26th January, 1897.

THE ANTI-PARTITION AGITATION.

The Government can hardly be in very much doubt as to the popularity of its proposals to dismember the province of Bengal and especially those of them which refer to the transfer of Dacca and Mymensingh to the province of Assam. The irony of destiny has arranged that the idea of partitioning Bengal, which is understood to have been simmering in the official brain for a decade, should have crystallized in the hands of a Viceroy who throughout his political career in England has been associated with the party which prevented the separation of Ireland from Great Britain and averted the disruption of the Empire. If anybody cared to refer to Mr. Curzon's speeches from the year 1886, when he first entered Parliament down to 1893, when he was nominated to the vacant Viceroyalty, he would find a large number of arguments combating the suggestion of Home Rule for Ireland any of which might, in its broader aspects, be easily applied to His Excellency's present proposals for the splitting up of Bengal. But the case for Bengal does not require to be buttressed with arguments against Irish Home Rule. It is quite strong enough to stand upon its own merits. The proposals for partition have been attacked in every key and every language. They are repugnant alike to sentiment and to common sense. They are opposed by every community and by every section of each community. And within the threatened districts themselves they have awakened a storm of passionate protest which has surprised those who have led it. No still small voice has been raised on behalf of the Government. If it had, it would only have emphasized the deafening clamour of the protesting interests. Really a casual observer might think that the Government had pondered over the best means of stirring up its subjects in Bengal, and had selected this as the quickest and most amusing manner of setting the province in a ferment.

The casual observer would be wrong of course. Lord Curzon's Government takes itself very seriously. But how to reconcile this fact with an adventure so glaringly obnoxious to so many millions of people? The Government probably—almost certainly—did not know that its plan would be received with such thunder of execration, but is that calculated to make us feel easier in our minds? The Government ought to have known, and the fact that it sprang this sensation upon the country, under the impression that it would arouse no more attention than a notification announcing the Local Government's intention to take up land is an indication of an Executive out of touch with public feeling, if not contemptuous of public opinion. Now the deliberate judgment of history is that Government under such conditions becomes impossible. The Government of India has been living in a fool's paradise. We do not blame it. Anyone can understand how petty and inconsiderable the prejudices of sweating denizens of the plains must appear to dwellers in the cool and serene atmosphere of Simla. To such intellects the drawing up of a fresh map, more logical it may be, and more regular than the old one, must appear as an agreeable and stimulating method of spending one's time, as well as a delightfully easy way of winking geography. Allowance should certainly be made for the frame of mind in which the new proposals were drawn up. But it is probable that here, in Calcutta, within sight and sound of the people themselves the project, under fire of their complaints and criticisms, is already changing its aspect. We are delighted to know that the Viceroy is going to probe still further into local conditions and feelings. We imagine that the scheme will lose still more of its attractiveness after he has paid his visit to Eastern Bengal. But it ought not to have been necessary. The most brilliant regime ought not to contain more than a moderate number of errors.—"Englishman."

Some dozen men all of one tribe and place concerned in the murder at Chaman Quetta, of a dealer in precious stones, which happened two years ago, but was only brought home a few months back are to be tried at the ensuing Imperial Furga. The fellow tribesman who turned informer and was out on security has made tracks across the border.

Dysentery.

OR Inflammation of the bowel or large intestine is of more frequent occurrence during the summer months. It can be checked and cured if Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy is taken according to the printed directions with each bottle. Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy is invaluable to all who have it. Get a bottle to-day, may save a life.

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THE MADRAS LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

THE IMPARTIBLE ESTATES BILL.

At the Meeting of the Madras Legislative Council on Tuesday the Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Forbes presented the Report of the Select Committee on the Madras Impartible Estates Bill, 1903, and moved that the Bill and Report be taken into consideration at once. In doing so he said:—

My Lord,—I have now the honour to present the Report of the Select Committee on the Madras Impartible Estates Bill and to move that the Bill, as amended by the Select Committee, be taken into consideration.

The Report fully explains the modifications made in the Bill as introduced, and I need not take up the time of the Council in going through them at any great length. It will be observed that no radical change has been proposed, and so I will now proceed at once to recapitulate the amendments of the Select Committee. First, it will be seen that we have excluded the West Coast Districts from the extent clause, sub-clause (1) of clause 1. A question was raised whether a strict construction of the Bill might not subject 'stanom' properties, which are impartible, to the incidents of impartibility as declared in the Bill. These properties are clearly beyond the intention of the proposed legislation; but in case any question should be raised, the Select Committee deemed it safer to put the matter beyond doubt by the special exclusion of the Districts in which such properties are situated. This seemed to us a simpler mode of proceeding than by attempting to find a phraseology which, while including estates of the Zemindary class to which the Bill properly applies, would exclude 'stanoms' and the like. Fortunately for the draftsman, such estates are found only on the West Coast Districts, and so a territorial clause sub-clause sufficiently effects the object. The repeal clause (3) of clause 1 repeals both the existing Acts. Clause 4 of the original Bill purported to instance some of the cases in which alienations were permissible, the object being by such enumeration to diminish the chances of dispute and litigation from this category we have now omitted sub-clause 2 (b) which specified the power of alienating for the purpose of affecting agricultural improvements. This exclusion does not, however, in any way prejudice or affect any right in this direction which the proprietor of an impartible estate may possess under the law. As it stood it might be used to justify wholesale alienations otherwise unwarrantable. Further having in view the rights which ryots and others may possess in a Zemindary it was apprehended that the clause might be misconstrued and read as conferring on the proprietor larger rights over the soil than in some cases he possessed. Sub-clause (b) has, therefore, been omitted, and the matter left to the ordinary law. At the same time we have defined more fully the proprietor's rights in respect of mining or quarrying leases. The Report explains on what lines the new provision have been developed. In the case of leases of the Zemindar's panna or home farm lands, we have reduced the maximum term to 15 years. We have introduced a new clause 4-A, the object of which is also fully explained in the Report. It will enable a concessionaire of mining rights to secure for the prescribed term a lease which will be unimpeachable by the grantor or his successors, in so far as concerns the amount of the rent reserved, and the conditions on which the rent is to be paid. This new provision will, we confidently hope, do much for the development of the mineral resources of the Presidency. To clause 6 words have been added making it clear that the provisions of the Act shall not apply to portions of an impartible estate which have been permanently alienated. The only change in the Schedule is the inclusion of Amburpetta with Nidadavolu. The former is a 'purgunah' of the main estate, and has no separate 'sanad', though an alienation has been registered in the Collector's books. The tenure of the Nidadavolu estate is at present being contested in the Civil Courts; and if it is finally determined that the estate is not impartible but partible, then sub-clause 2 of clause 7 will apply, and the estate will be deemed not to have appeared in the schedule. Until such final determination, however, the estate will, in accordance with the principle which has been adopted in regard to estates under litigation, receive the protection of the new law.

These are all the changes which the Select Committee has made in the Bill as introduced; and they were, I am glad to add, unanimously adopted. There is, however, one point on which two of the Hon'ble Members on the Committee have appended a recommendation to the Report. They desire that it should be made clear that a proprietor shall have the power of alienation when he has no legal heir, and, when otherwise, the estate would escheat to Government; and amendments have been put on the notice paper to effect this. I may at once say that Government have no desire to deprive the proprietor of the right to alienate at his death in such circumstances; and I shall be prepared to accept an amendment in that sense. Before concluding I may be permitted to read a few words from a judgment of the Privy Council delivered so lately as November last, the Report of which had not been received when I introduced this Bill. The case related to an impartible estate in Madras, and the question was what law should be applied to the sale of a portion of the estate. This is what their Lordships of the Privy Council said:—

"As regards the law of the matter in 1873 and 1876, when the sales took place, it was the accepted law in Madras that the holder of an impartible Zemindary who was himself a member of an undivided family could not alienate or encumber the corpus of the estate so as to bind his co-partners, except for justifiable special causes. Prior to 1889 there had been a series of decisions to that effect in the Madras Courts, but in that year following the judgment of this Committee in the Allahabad case the High Court of Madras overruled those decisions. . . . That reversal of the previously accepted interpretation of the law contained in their Lordships' opinion displaces its application to the construction of contracts contained in the certificates of sale now under consideration. . . . Their Lordships agree with the Courts below in holding that in 1873 and 1876 when the sales took place the law was that at the time understood, and that the estate purchased by the appellant was only the life-interest of the then Zemindar." I read these extracts not that there has ever been any doubt in the mind

of this Government that the law, as always understood in the Bombay Council, was radically altered by the Allahabad decision; but simply for the satisfaction of finding the same view emphatically enunciated by the highest legal tribunal in the Empire.

I cannot pass on to the motion standing in my name without acknowledging the great assistance which the Select Committee received from the Hon'ble Mr. Sankaran Nair and the Hon'ble Mr. Govindaraghava Aiyar, while the experience of the Hon'ble the Maharajah of Bobbili in the administration of his great estates was of much value on several points which came under discussion. I now beg to move that the Bill as amended by the Select Committee be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble the Maharajah of Bobbili, in seconding the motion, said:—

My Lord,—In seconding the motion, I beg to say that when the Bill was introduced into the Council I made a suggestion that a holder of an impartible estate should have power to make additions to his estate. When I moved the same point at the Select Committee, the Hon'ble Messrs. Sankaran Nair and Govindaraghava Aiyar said that under the present Law, if a holder of an impartible estate acquires immovable property out of the savings of his impartible estate, and if he wishes to have it added to his state, as part and piece of it, he can do so. I have also consulted several lawyers on the subject, and they were of opinion that it could be done, but it would be open to several questions. Now, my Lord, I see from the Agenda paper that an Hon'ble Member proposes the same amendment in the Bill. If the benign Government is pleased to accept the amendment, we, the Zemindars, will be more grateful to the Government as an additional favour, so as to save us also from unnecessary litigation on this point. I now heartily second the motion.

The motion was then put and carried. The amendments of which notice had been given by the Hon'ble Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Aiyar and the Hon'ble Mr. K. Vasudeva Aiyangar were then taken. The first amendment considered was the one moved by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Vasudeva Aiyangar for the insertion in Sub-clause (2) of Section 2 relating to the definition of "an Impartible Estate" of the following words:—"And included additions made to the estates by the proprietor from time to time" after the words "Southern India." The Hon'ble Member pointed out that on account of adverse seasons or unforeseen contingencies a proprietor might be obliged to spend beyond his income and make alienations, and in such circumstances it was but just that he should be allowed to make good the loss by new purchases, or a proprietor might be able, by prudent management, to purchase new estates, and it was not going beyond the intention of the present Bill to make the new estates partake of the nature of the original estates to which the Bill applied.

The Hon'ble the Maharajah of Bobbili seconded the amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. Krishnan Nayar, in opposing the amendment, observed that the insertion of the words proposed might deprive the proprietor of his right to dispose of the accretions, as he liked—say in favour of his younger sons. If the Bill was passed into law, it was only the eldest son that would be entitled to the possession of an impartible estate; and if the amendment was carried the father, who was the proprietor, would be debarred from leaving his acquisitions to any of his minor sons.

The Hon'ble Mr. K. Vasudeva Aiyangar pointed out that it was left to the option of the father to include the accretions under the impartible estate or not.

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General, said that there was no necessity for the amendment, the principle upon which the Bill had been drafted being not to attempt codification.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Forbes remarked that the point had been fully considered in Select Committee, and it had been decided that it would be undesirable to introduce such a provision into the Bill.

The amendment was put and lost.

The next important amendment stood in the name of the Hon'ble Mr. L. A. Govindaraghava Aiyar, who in lieu of his own amendment, moved the following amendment agreed to by the Member in charge of the Bill:—"That the following be inserted as Sub-section 3, in Section 4:

"Nothing in this Section shall be construed to restrict the power of the owner of an impartible estate to provide the succession thereto in default of heirs."

The Hon'ble Mr. G. Sreenivasa Rao seconded the amendment, which was put and carried.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. K. Krishnan Nayar drew the attention of the Council to the omission of the words "by the lessee" which had been found in the original Bill, in sub-clause 2 (ii) of Section 4 of the Bill before the Council, after the words "to be laid out."

The Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Forbes explained that the wording of the existing clause had been taken from an English Statute, and it was understood that the language of the clauses, as it stood, implied what was proposed to be achieved by the insertion of the words "by the lessee." However, he had no objection to accept the amendment suggested.

An amendment for the insertion of these words was then formally moved and carried.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. K. Krishnan Nayar pointed out that the wording of the sub-clause 2 (iv) of Section 4 was not very clear.

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General explained that the wording of the clause had been taken from English Statutes, and that that was the accepted form of drafting. Any one who had anything to do with mining leases would have no difficulty in understanding the clause.

The next amendment of any importance that was moved was for the insertion of the words "and the Board of Revenue," after the word "Collector" in Section 5.

The Hon'ble Mr. M. K. Krishnan Nayar seconded the amendment, which was moved by the Hon'ble Mr. K. Vasudeva Aiyangar.

The Hon'ble the Advocate-General pointed out that the amendment was unnecessary, inasmuch as it was always open to a party to petition the Board of Revenue against an order of the Collector.

In the light of this explanation the Hon'ble Mr. K. Vasudeva Aiyangar withdrew his amendment.

The Hon'ble Mr. G. S. Forbes then moved that the Bill, as amended by the Council, be passed into law.

His Excellency the President made a speech which appeared in our last issue and then put the motion to the Council and declared it carried.—"M. M."

A RIOT IN THE MANDALAY JAIL.

We hear that about 8 o'clock on the morning of the 8th instant, a riot took place in the local jail in one of the workyards, when Mr. Thorpe, the Deputy Jailor, was badly assaulted. It appears that Mr. Thorpe, while on his rounds that morning, was struck from behind by a gang of convicts and received a nasty wound on the head. The Maistry of the workyard went at once to his assistance, but was also assaulted and severely beaten and fell unconscious. By this time, the Superintendent of the Jail and Mr. Owen, the Jailor turned up and sounded the alarm. A number of prisoners were seen armed with sticks, and one of them had his foot against the door. The Jailor tried to force open this door while Captain Dee managed to open another door and entered the workyard. The man who was standing near the first door came to the Superintendent, threatening him with a piece of wood in his hand, when Captain Dee promptly knocked him down. In the meantime, another prisoner aimed a blow at the head of the Superintendent, which fortunately, just touched his hat. This man the Jailor knocked down. Had it not been for the timely assistance of Captain Dee and Mr. Owen, Mr. Thorpe would probably have been murdered by his assailants. The convict warders, who were observed giving no assistance during the riot, were punished with 80 lashes each in the presence of the prisoners.—T. of B.



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